

# **Nazi German Armed Forces: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION?**



## **A History of Diversity in the Third Reich**

By William P. Litynski

# **ADOLF HITLER: A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER WHO DREAMED OF CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN?**



Adolf Hitler and Dr. H.H. Kung pose with Nazi German and Nationalist Chinese delegations at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937. (Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg10.html>)

# Part 1: Hitler's Asian Soldiers



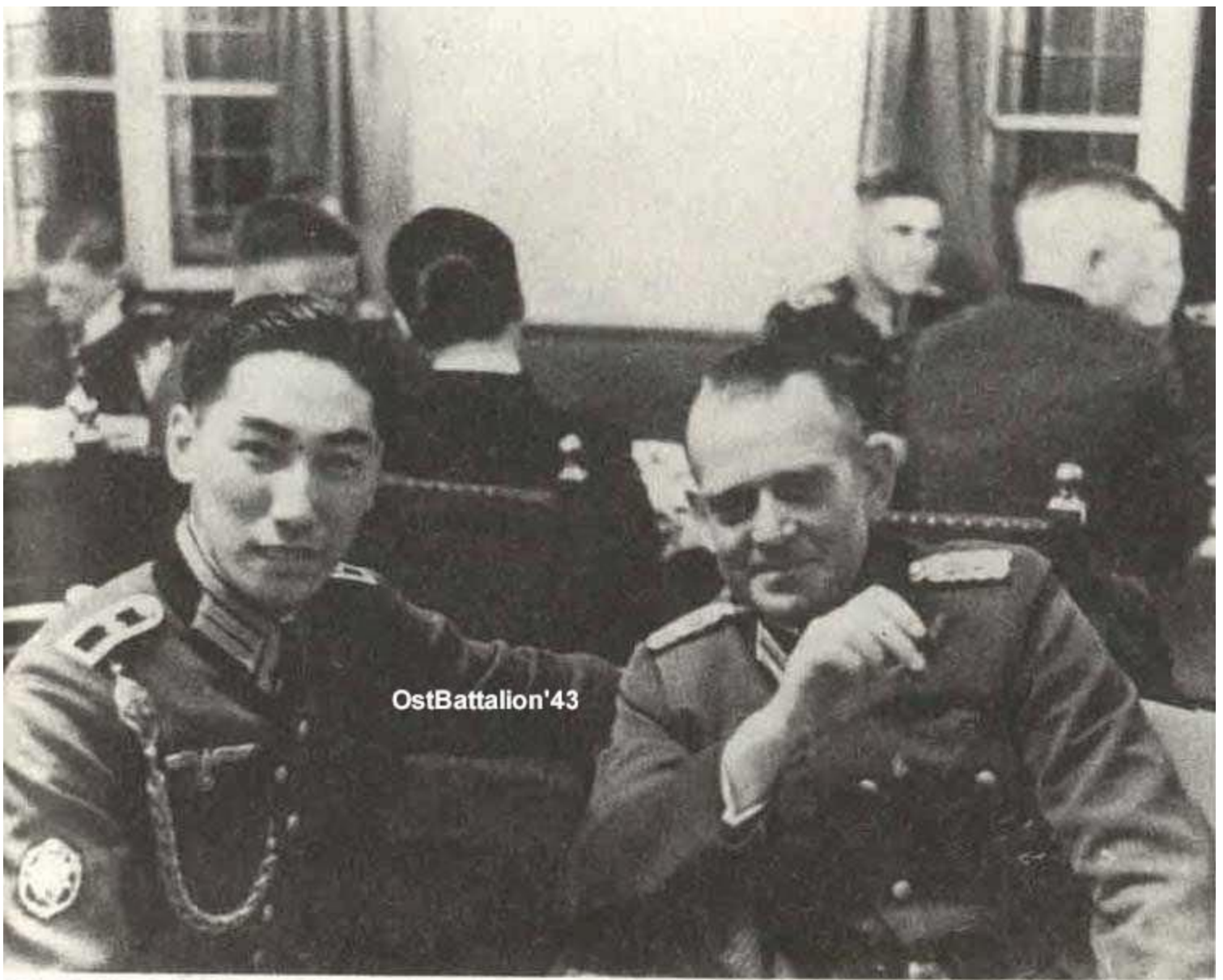
。國緯蔣生學留籍國中之校軍黑尼慕國德。



軍陸國德授獲，業畢校軍黑尼慕國德  
。階軍尉少

Chiang Wei-kuo, the adopted son of Nationalist China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, poses for an official portrait. Chiang Wei-kuo's biological mother was from Japan.





過扎實的軍官教育洗禮後，蔣緯國獲頒陸軍少尉軍階，時與班主任合影。

Chiang Wei-kuo (left), the adopted son of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, served as a commander of a panzer division during the 1938 Anschluss.

“Ching-kuo’s stepbrother Wei-kuo, meanwhile, was developing his military career. He had taken part in the union of Austria and Germany (the Anschluss) as a German sergeant-cadet. He graduated in 1939 just before the outbreak of war, then spent a year at the U.S. Army’s armored force center at Fort Knox. The Generalissimo had kept Wei-kuo’s existence hidden from Mayling for thirteen years, but once he acknowledged him, she quickly came to enjoy her suave, handsome, English-speaking stepson, who was a second lieutenant in an army unit deployed against the Japanese along the Yellow River near Xi’an.”

– *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China* by Jay Taylor, p. 186-187

“Addressing a huge crowd in Nanking on Double Ten Day (October 10), 1936, Chiang [Kai-shek] declared, “The remnant Communists are now encompassed in a few scattered regions and can be exterminated without much difficulty. At present, communism is no longer a real menace to China.” After his speech, Chiang stood and saluted as spit-and-polish military units marched by in goose step followed by row after row of powerful German weapons. Thanks to German machine tools, Chinese arsenals were now capable of producing some weapons of quality and precision. Even so, the new German adviser, Alexander von Falkenhausen, believed that China needed two more years to reach his goal of sixty well-trained, modern divisions. New German heavy coastal guns, a dozen submarines, a German cruiser, torpedo boats, and other warships were not due to be delivered before 1938. The Luftwaffe had taken over training the Chinese air force, and if things went according to plan, Chinese pilots by 1939 would be flying modern Messerschmitts and Stukas, marking a profound change in the balance of power between China and Japan.”





An unusual Dutch  
volunteer - believed to be  
of Indonesian descent



Left photo: (Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=2>)

Right photo: (Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=4>)



A group of Turkic or Asian soldiers appear in a Nazi German army uniform. (Photo: <http://englishrussia.com/?p=2728>)



Mongolians in the Nazi German army.

(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=2>)





A group of German Navy (Kriegsmarine) sailors in Japan appear with a group of sailors from the Japanese Imperial Navy.  
(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=2>)





Japanese army soldiers (left and right) attached to the Wehrmacht



Japanese army officer (right) attached to the Wehrmacht



Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-295-1580-21  
Foto: Müller, Karl | 1943

A group of Asian soldiers are dressed in the Wehrmacht uniform in 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



A group of Asian soldiers wearing the Wehrmacht uniform

Impressed into service by the Japanese, this man was captured by the Soviets in the Manchurian Border clashes in August 1939, who impressed him into the Red Army. He was then captured by the Germans, who impressed him into service to build the Atlantic Wall. Captured by the Americans, no one could figure out what language he was speaking. He was determined to be Korean and told his story to Army Intelligence.

Utah Beach  
Normandy, France  
June 6, 1944



A Korean soldier in the Wehrmacht (Photo: <http://thomo.coldie.net/wargaming/korean-soldiers-in-ww2-german-army>)

The name of the Korean soldier in the above photo is Kyoungjong Yang who was born in Shin Euijoo, Northwestern Korea on March 3, 1920. He was conscripted to the Kwantung army in 1938 and captured by the Soviets in Nomonhan and captured again by Germans in Ukraine in the summer of 1943, maybe in the battle of Kharkov, and captured finally by Americans in Utah beach, Normandy on June 6, 1944. He was freed from a POW camp in Britain on May, 1945 and moved and settled in America in 1947. He lived near the Northwestern Univ. in Illinois until he died on April 7, 1992. He lived as an ordinary U.S. citizen without telling his unbelievable life story even to his two sons and one daughter.

His story was revealed by an article of 'Weekly Korea' on Dec. 6th, 2002, which became a big topic in the Korean society here at the time.

<http://search.hankooki.com/weeks/wee...4100061510.htm>

Source: <http://www.allforums.net/showthread.php?t=25554>

## Korean Soldiers in WW2 German Army

There was a book review recently in the [Korea Times](#) about a couple of authors who had published recently. The review was titled [Masters Return With Bitter History](#) and covered a couple of areas of Korean History.

What particularly interested me was a photo from World War II that served as an inspiration for Jo JungRae, an author, for his latest book, "Oh God." The photo shows a Korean soldier in German uniform on a Normandy beach in 1944. The photo itself had been previously featured in "D-Day" by Stephen Ambrose. Apparently an American soldier from the war had told Ambrose that he had met four Koreans wearing German uniforms when his unit participated in action against German troops on the beaches of Normandy.

It seems that the Koreans had been conscripted into the Japanese Army but after being captured by the Russians at the Battle of Nomonhan in the Russo-Japanese War (part II, the 1940's one, not the 1904-05 one). They were pressed into service in the Russian Army. Captured by the Germans in a battle near Moscow, the Koreans were then pressed into service in the Wehrmacht. They were then captured by the Americans whilst they were engaged working on the Atlantic Wall. The Americans (mercifully) did not press them into service but rather held them as prisoners of war.

It seems that these poor souls never made it back home to Korea as apparently the Koreans were exchanged with the Soviets for American POWs liberated by the Red Army. This I find a little suspicious as at that time the Red Army and the US Army were on the same side and no POW exchanges should have been necessary. I could accept that they were returned to the Soviet's however as at that time there was a largish Korean Diaspora under Soviet control and they therefore would have seemed like a Soviet problem to deal with.

The picture itself can be viewed at the [WW2 Multimedia Database == World War II Multimedia Database](#), the homepage of the Database being here at <http://www.worldwar2database.com/>. The book itself is written in Korean so I cannot read into it, however, the idea behind the book was appealing, doubly so as I have been doing some research into the Battle of Nomonhan anyway. I will post an article about that later when I get the research finished.



Source: <http://thomo.coldie.net/wargaming/korean-soldiers-in-ww2-german-army>



Asian prisoners-of-war in the Wehrmacht appear for a group photo some time after the Battle of Normandy in 1944.  
(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?t=161830&page=7>)



Unidentified Turkic soldiers dressed in Wehrmacht uniforms play a game of poker.



Unidentified Turkic soldiers dressed in Wehrmacht uniforms play a game of chess.





Nazi German army officers inspect a group of Turkic soldiers. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



A Nazi German army officer instructs a group of Turkic volunteers in October-November 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Left: A group of Chinese troops from the National Revolutionary Army (NRA) of the Kuomintang.  
(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?t=161830&page=3>)

Right: A portrait of Chiang Wei-kuo in the uniform of the Nazi German Wehrmacht.



Chinese General Wang Jingwei (center), a pro-Japanese collaborator who once served as the Premier of the Republic of China (1932-1935), is seen celebrating with Nazi German officers in 1941. Wang always flew the Republic of China (ROC) flag and claimed to be the legitimate government of China despite the fact he defected to the Japanese Empire and betrayed Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Wang died in Nagoya, Japan on November 10, 1944. (Photo: [Wikipedia](#))





Nazi German officers inspect a group of Asian soldiers.



Nazi German officers appear with two Japanese sumo wrestlers before or during World War II.

<http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=2>



Indian guerilla fighter Subhas Chandra Bose meets with Adolf Hitler at the Reich Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on May 29, 1942. (Photo: Bundesarchiv/German Federal Archives)

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Subhas\\_Chandra\\_Bose\\_and\\_Adolf\\_Hitler\\_29\\_May\\_1942.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Subhas_Chandra_Bose_and_Adolf_Hitler_29_May_1942.jpg)



The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin al-Husseini (left), Indian nationalist leader Subhas Chandra Bose (center), and leader of the 1941 Iraqi coup d'état Rashid Ali al-Gaylani meet in Berlin, Germany in 1943.





Bundesarchiv, Bild 101III-Alber-064-22A  
Foto: Alber, Kurt | 1943

India's anti-colonial rebel Subhas Chandra Bose (left) shakes hands with Nazi SS Chief Heinrich Himmler during a meeting in Nazi Germany in 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Subhas Chandra Bose delivers a speech in Tokyo, Japan in 1945.





Bundesarchiv, Bild 101III-Alber-064-16A  
Foto: Alber, Kurt | 1943

India's anti-colonial rebel Subhas Chandra Bose (left) sits beside Nazi SS Chief Heinrich Himmler during a meeting in Nazi Germany in 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Rashid Ali al-Gaylani and Haj Amin al-Husseini speak at the anniversary of the 1941 coup in Iraq in front of black-white-green banners in Berlin, Germany. (Photo: <http://collections.yadvashem.org/photosarchive/en-us/22838.html>)

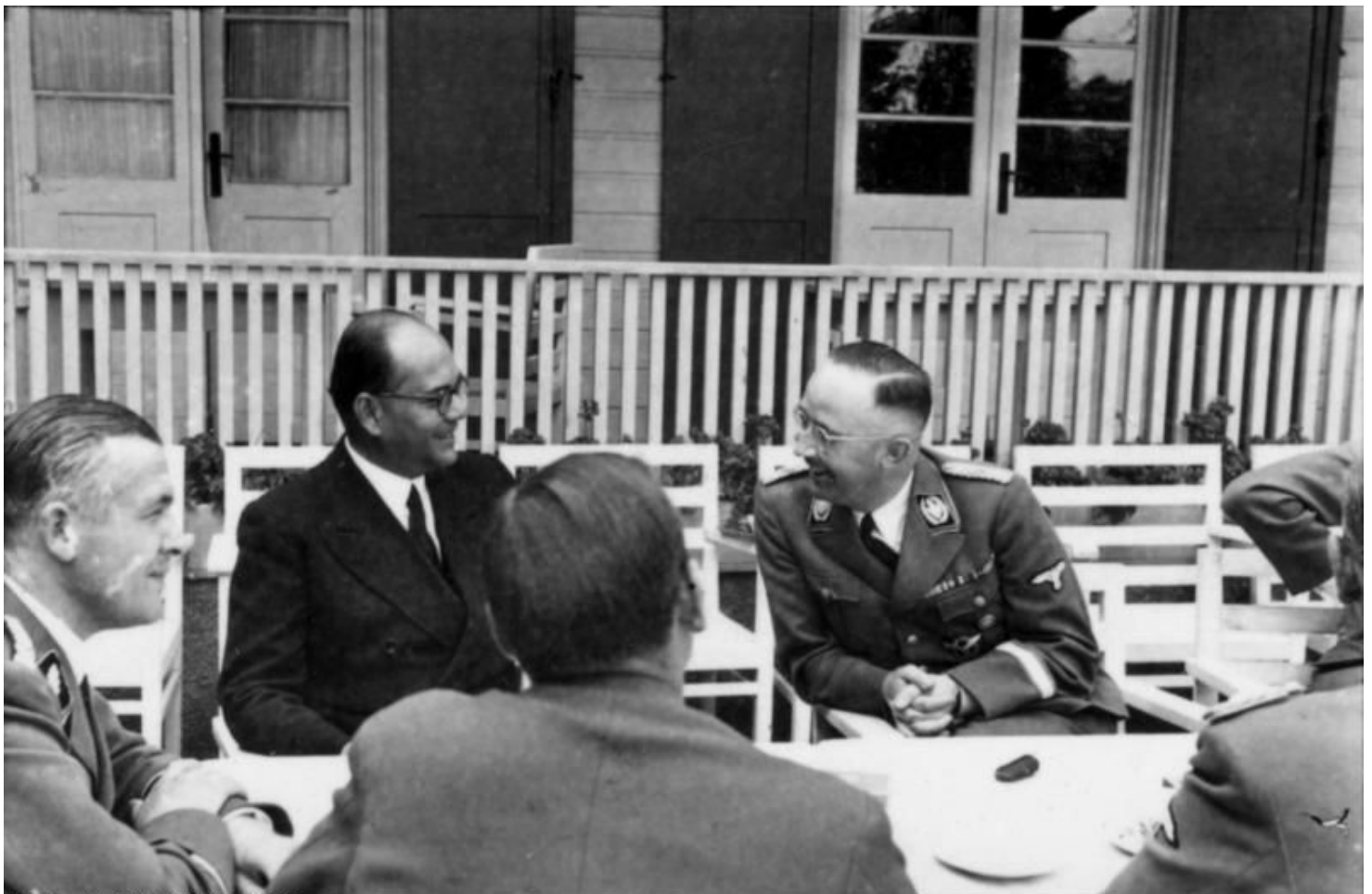


Bundesarchiv, Bild 101III-Alber-064-04  
Foto: Alber, Kurt | 1943

India's anti-colonial rebel Subhas Chandra Bose (second from right) sits beside Nazi SS Chief Heinrich Himmler during a meeting in Nazi Germany in 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



India's political activist Subhash Chandra Bose (left) meets with and Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Jinnah was the founder of independent Pakistan and served as the first Governor-General of Pakistan from 1947 until his death on September 11, 1948. Bose reportedly died on August 18, 1945 in a plane crash over the island of Taiwan shortly after Japan surrendered.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 101111-Alber-064-03A  
Foto: Alber, Kurt | 1943

Indian guerilla fighter Subhas Chandra Bose (second from left) meets with Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler (right) in Nazi Germany in 1943.  
(Photo: Bundesarchiv/German Federal Archives)





India's rebel Subhash Chandra Bose meets with an unidentified Nazi German army officer during World War II.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 101-823-2704-30  
Foto: Aschenbroich 1 1942

Indian guerilla fighter Subhas Chandra Bose salutes as Indian soldiers of the Frei Indien Korps march in a parade. The Nazi German flag is displayed in the background. (Photo: German Federal Archives)

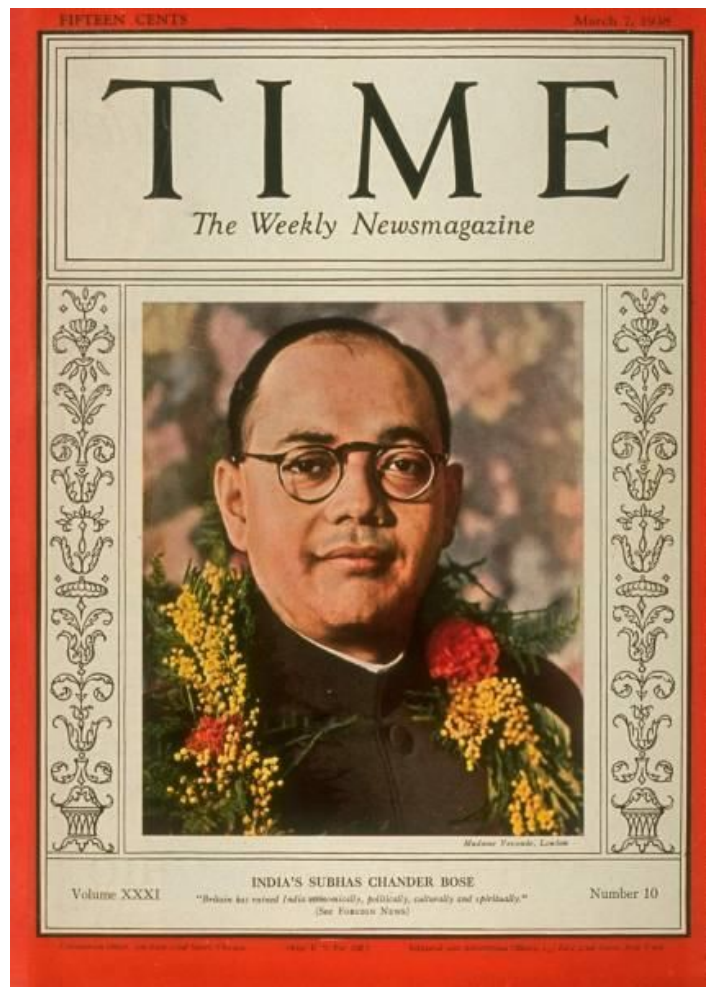


A group of Indian soldiers of the Frei Indien Korps take an oath of allegiance during World War II.

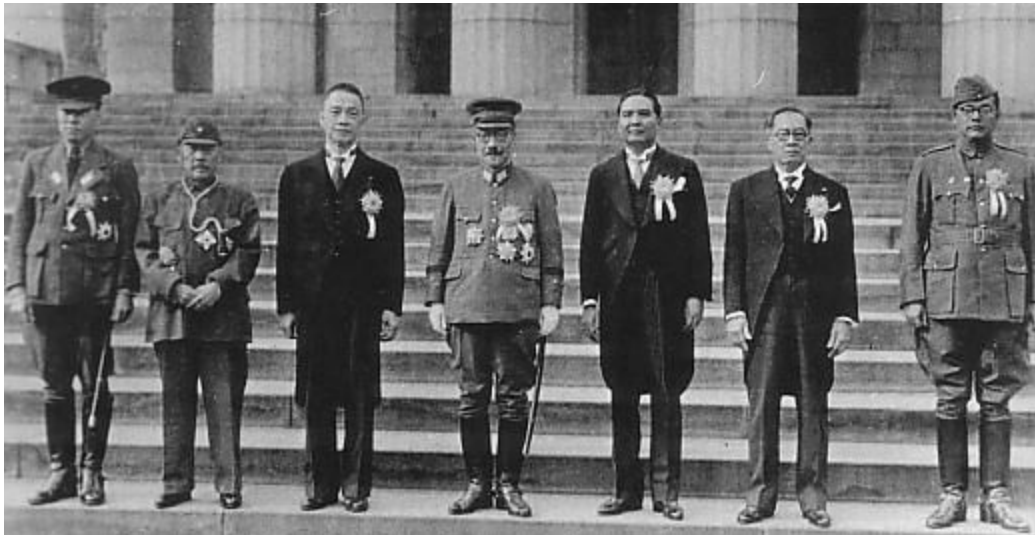


A group of Indian soldiers of the Frei Indien Korps take an oath of allegiance during World War II.





Subhas Chandra Bose was the leader of the Indian National Congress before World War II and even had audiences with Adolf Hitler and Emperor Hirohito of Japan.



Delegates stand together at the Greater East Asia Conference in Tokyo, Japan on November 5, 1943. Hideki Tojo is standing at center. India's pro-Axis rebel Subhas Chandra Bose is standing on the far right.

(Source: Japanese book "Showa History Vol.11: Road to Catastrophe" published by Mainichi Newspapers Company.)





A memorial for India's Nazi collaborator Subhas Chandra Bose in Japan



Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-823-2704-10A  
Foto: Aschenbroich | 1942

A member of the Freies Indien Korps (Free Indian Corps). (Photo: German Federal Archives)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-J08486  
Foto: Hoffmann | November 1943

Members of the Freies Indien Korps appear at a conference in November 1943 as an unidentified Nazi German bureaucrat (third from right) delivers a speech. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Haj Amin al-Husseini greets Subhas Chandra Bose in Berlin in 1943.



Nazi German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel inspects the Free India Legion (Freies Indien Korps) in France in February 1944.  
(Photo: Deutsches Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archive))

[http://www.bild.bundesarchiv.de/archives/barchpic/search/\\_1308696457/?search\[view\]=detail&search\[focus\]=1](http://www.bild.bundesarchiv.de/archives/barchpic/search/_1308696457/?search[view]=detail&search[focus]=1)







Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-J16696  
Foto: Werner | Februar 1944

Indian soldiers of the Free India Legion (Freies Indien Korps) prepare to fire artillery rounds in February 1944. (Photo: Deutsches Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archive)) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indische\\_Legion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indische_Legion)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-263-1580-05  
Foto: Wette | 1944 Frühling

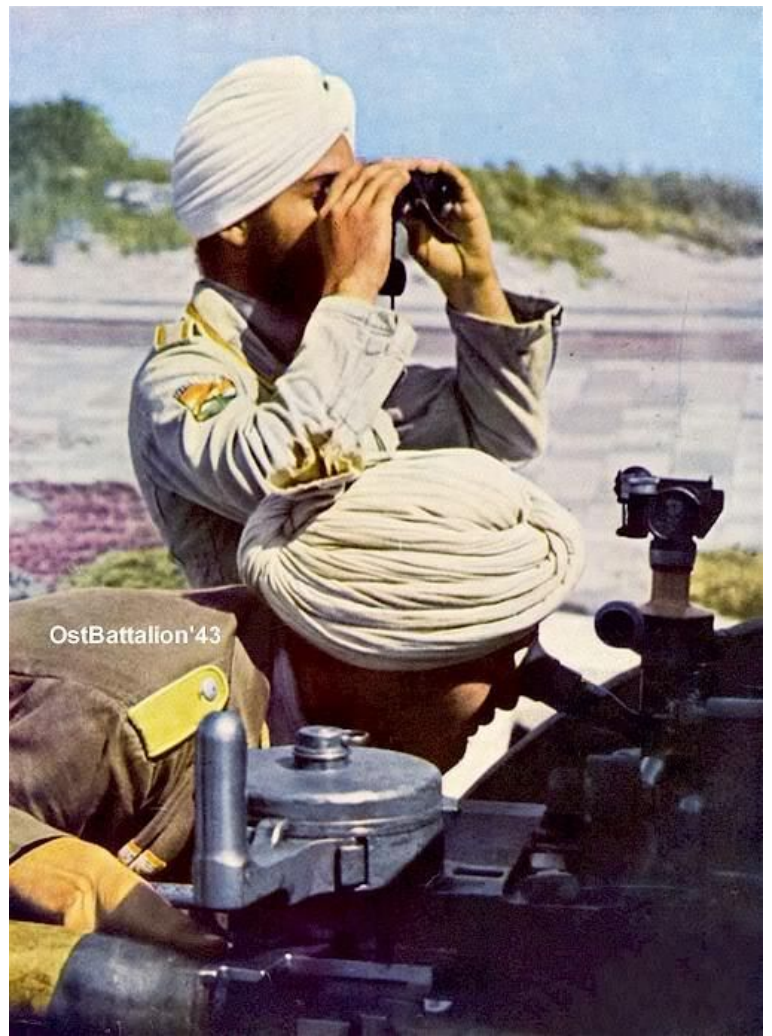
Soldiers of the Freies Indien Korps guard the Atlantic coast of France in 1944. (Photo: German Federal Archives)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-263-1598-04  
Foto: Müller | 10. Februar 1944

Soldiers of the Freies Indien Korps receive instructions from a German army general on February 10, 1944.  
(Photo: German Federal Archives)



Left photo: Indische Freiwilligen Legion der Waffen-SS. "The Indische Freiwilligen Legion der Waffen SS [Indian Liberation Legion of the Waffen SS] remained at Tr.Üb.Platz Heuberg until the end of March 1945, then, with the defeat of the Third Reich imminent the Indians sought sanctuary in neutral Switzerland and undertook a desperate march along the shores of the Bodensee (Lake Constance) in an attempt to enter Switzerland via one of the alpine passes. However, this was unsuccessful and eventually the Legion was captured by United States and French forces before their delivery into the custody of British forces."

Right photo: Indian soldiers (primarily Sikhs) are seen making observations in a battlefield.  
(Photo: <http://thementalmilitia.com/forums/index.php?topic=21579.0>)



ABOVE: Three officers with which *Ost-Bataillon 628* had to deal with while staying on the island of Walcheren, shown here during an inspection of the coast near Domburg in the first half of 1944. From left to right: Generalmajor Wilhelm Daser, commander of the *165. Reserve Division* (later redesignated as the *70. Infanterie Division*); General der Infanterie Werner Freiherr von und zu Gilsa, commanding general of the *LXXXIX. Armeekorps*, to which the division belonged; Oberstleutnant Eugen Reinhardt, commanding officer of *Reserve Grenadier Regiment 205*, later redesignated as *Grenadier Regiment 1018* (to which *Ost-Bataillon 628* was attached).

BELOW: Men of the *Indische Legion* (Indian Legion) at Texel Island, which are here easily recognized (apart from their external features and turbans) by their emblem showing a springing tiger and the title "*Freies Indien*" (Free India).







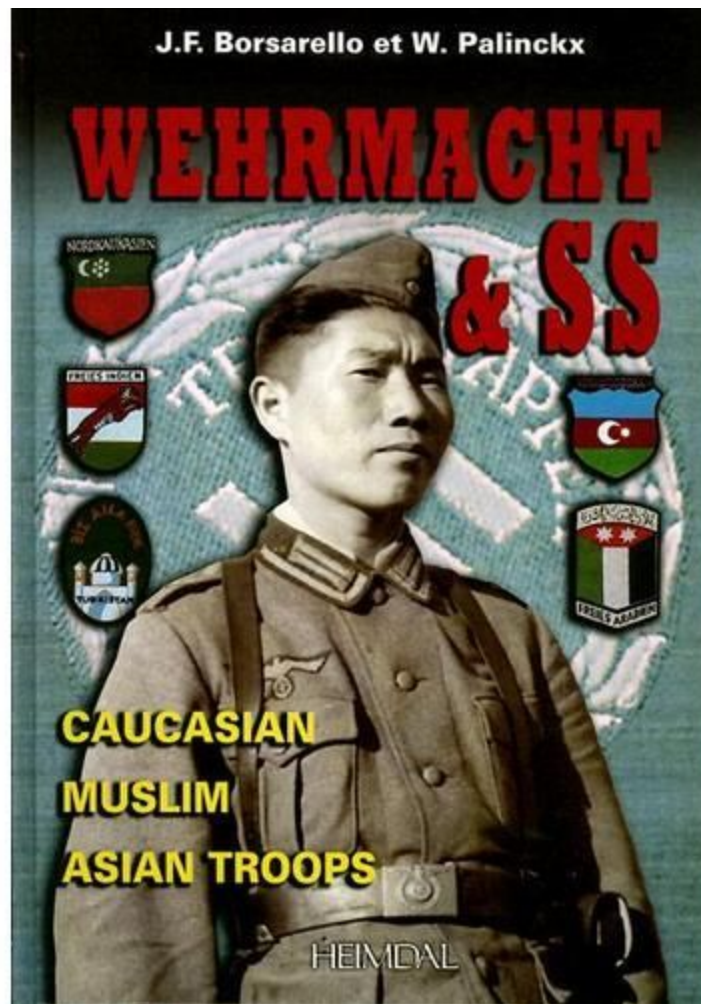
(Photo: <http://englishrussia.com/?p=2728>)



Indian soldiers in the Nazi German army (Photo: <http://englishrussia.com/?p=2728>)







## Part 2: Hitler's Muslim, Arab, & African Soldiers





Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-177-1465-04  
Foto: Schlickum | 1943 Herbst

An African-Arab soldier in the Free Arab Legion of the Nazi German army (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 1011-177-1485-18  
Foto: Schlickum | 1943 Herbst

An African soldier of the "Free Arab Legion" appears with members of the Nazi German Wehrmacht (Afrika Korps?) in 1943.  
(Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))



Photos of African soldiers in the Free Arab Legion of the Nazi German army (Right photo: <http://englishrussia.com/?p=2728>)





Georgians in Wehrmacht uniform stand beside German railcars during World War II.

(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=2>)



A group portrait of an unofficial "Afrika Korps" (not related to Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps).

(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?s=de62fc05be49af92d185208236aed75a&t=161830&page=2>)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 147-0483  
Foto: o. Ang. | 19. Dezember 1942

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, chats with soldiers of the Bosnian Hanzar Division on December 19, 1942. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini rides in a vehicle with a group of Nazi German military officers.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1970-041-50  
Foto: Melke | November 1943

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, salutes to soldiers of the Bosnian Hanzar Division in November 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1978-070-04A  
Foto: Mielke | November 1943

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, salutes to a group of Bosnian Hanzar Division soldiers in November 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1985-116-19A  
Foto: o. Ang. | November 1943 ca.

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini and soldiers of the pro-Nazi Bosnian Hanzar Division pose for a group portrait in November 1943.  
(Photo: German Federal Archives)



Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini (second from left), the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, is seen dining with the Nazis.



Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini observes Nazi maneuvers from a periscope.



Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini watches soldiers of the Bosnian Hanzar Division operate a mortar tube.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1974-059-40  
Foto: Gösling | November 1943

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini watches Nazi German army officers train soldiers of the Bosnian Hanzar Division in November 1943.  
(Photo: German Federal Archives)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1978-070-05A  
Foto: Mielke | November 1943

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini is seen training a soldier of the Bosnian Hanzar Division in November 1943.  
(Photo: German Federal Archives)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1980-036-05  
Foto: o. Ang. | November 1943

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, salutes to members of the Bosnian Hanzar Division in November 1943. (German Federal Archive)



Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini salutes to soldiers of the Bosnian Hanzar division.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 101111-Mielke-036-23  
Foto: Mielke | 1943 Sommer

Bosnian Hanzar Division soldiers read "Islam und Judentum" (Islam and Judaism) in 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



An unidentified Georgian or Azerbaijani soldier appears in a Nazi German army uniform. (Photo: <http://englishrussia.com/?p=2728>)



A group of Muslim Nazi volunteers march in formation.





A group of Muslim Nazi volunteers stand at attention with fixed bayonets.



A group of Muslim Nazi volunteers sing and dance during training.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1977-137-20  
Foto: Falkowski | November 1943

Members of the Bosnian Hanzar Division pray to Allah in November 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1973-116-11  
Foto: o. Ang. | 1943/1944 ca.

Members of the Bosnian Hanzar Division pose for a group portrait during World War II. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



A group of Muslim Nazi volunteers receive instructions on the use of grenades.





Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini greets Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler.



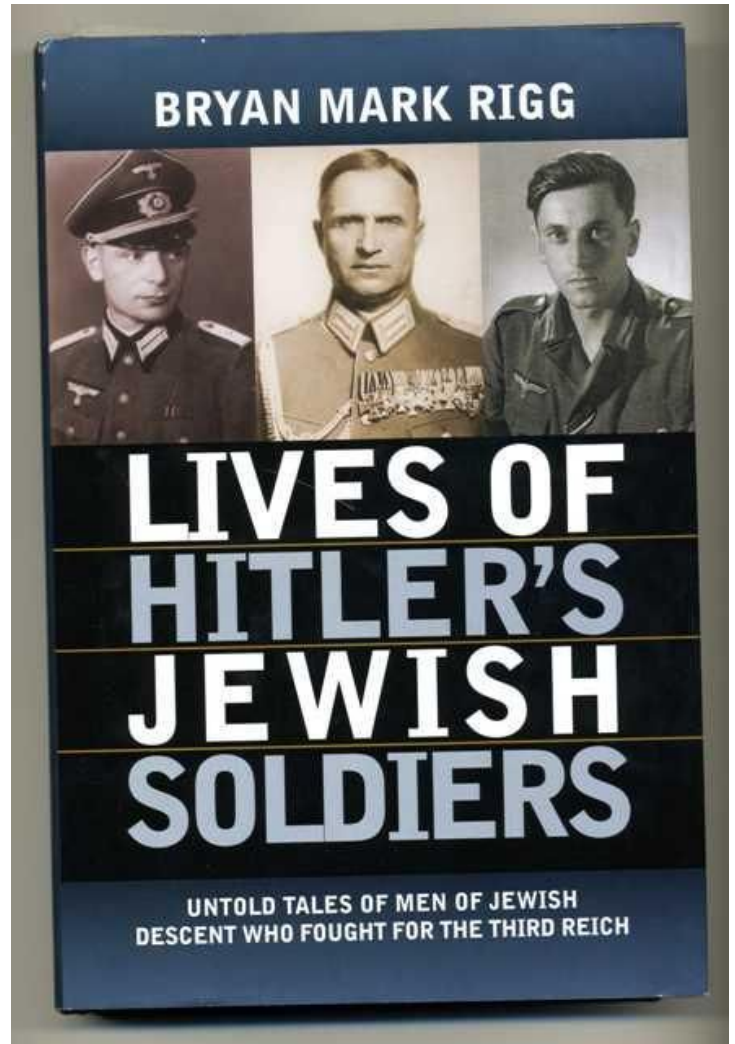
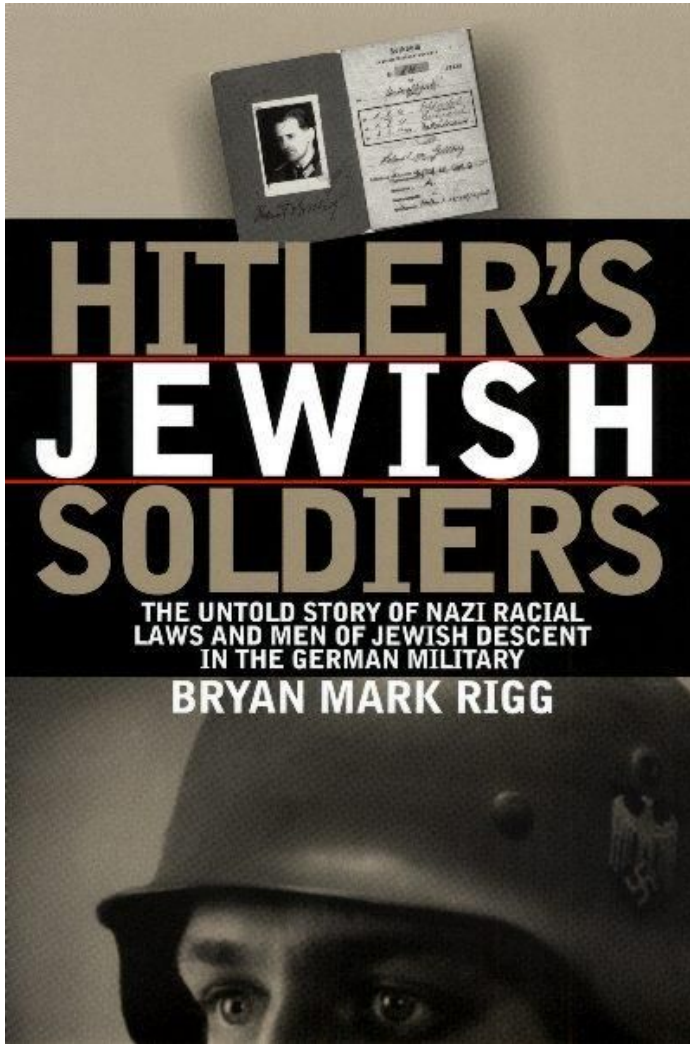
Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1987-004-09A  
Foto: Hoffmann | Dezember 1941

Nazi collaborator Haj Amin Al-Husseini meets with Adolf Hitler in Berlin in December 1941.



Accompanied by Foreign Minister of Nazi Germany Joachim von Ribbentrop (2<sup>nd</sup> left), Adolf Hitler receives Prime Minister of Iraq Raschid Ali el-Gailani in Berlin, Germany for talks from July 9-16, 1942. (Photo: Heinrich Hoffmann)

### Part 3: Hitler's Jewish Soldiers



The author Bryan Mark Rigg, whose maternal grandmother was a Jew, graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a volunteer in the Israeli army.



“Quarter-Jew” Admiral Bernhard Rogge, whose maternal grandmother was a Jew





Left: Nazi German Luftwaffe officer Field Marshal Erhard Milch appears on the front cover of the August 26, 1940 edition of *Time* magazine. Field Marshal Erhard Milch, whose full name is Erhard Alfred Richard Oskar Milch, was born on March 30, 1892 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Erhard Milch's father was a Jew; Erhard Milch's mother's Jewish ancestry remains a mystery. Field Marshal Erhard Milch joined the Nazi Party in March 1933; Field Marshal Erhard Milch's Nazi Party membership card number was 123,885.

Right: An Israeli postage stamp features Zionist terrorist Avraham Stern, a Nazi collaborator who founded the Stern Gang. Avraham Stern's comrade Yitzhak Shamir was a commander of the Stern Gang during World War II; Yitzhak Shamir was the Prime Minister of Israel from 1983 to 1984 and from 1986 to 1992 and the Leader of the Likud Party from 1983 to 1992.

## **HITLER TIE SEEN WITH CZECH JEWS; Organ of Austrian Heimwehr Reports Direct Descent on His Mother's Side. FORBEARS' OF SAME NAME Woman Who Left Czechoslovakia for Austria Declared a Sister of Chancellor's Grandmother.**

Wireless to *THE NEW YORK TIMES*. July 13, 1933

VIENNA, July 12 -- Frequent intimations and reports that Chancellor Hitler of Germany was connected with a Jewish family of the same name culminated in a three-page story tonight in the Heimwehr organ, *Oesterreichische Abendblatt*, claiming proof that Herr Hitler was directly descended on his mother's side from a Jewish family of that name in Czechoslovakia.

Source: [The New York Times](#)



Left photo: "Half-Jew" and later Luftwaffe General Helmut Wilberg; Hitler declared him Aryan in 1935. Wilberg developed the operational tactics of blitzkrieg. The rabbinical law states that a person is a Jew if his or her mother is a Jew; the father's ancestry is irrelevant. According to the rabbinical law and the Nuremberg Law, Luftwaffe General Helmut Wilberg was a Jew. (Military awards: Hohenzollern's Knight's Cross with Swords, EK1, EKII.)

(Source: [http://www.bryanrigg.com/jewish\\_soldiers\\_pics.htm](http://www.bryanrigg.com/jewish_soldiers_pics.htm))

Right photo: "Half-Jew" Field Marshal Erhard Milch. Erhard Milch was convicted at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity.



Left photo: General Gotthard Heinrici, who was married to a "half-Jew," meets with Adolf Hitler in 1937.



Right photo: "Half-Jew" and Field Marshal Erhard Milch (left) with General Wolfram von Richthofen. Hitler declared Milch an Aryan. He was awarded the Ritterkreuz for his performance during the campaign in Norway in 1940.



Admiral Bernhard Rogge (third from right) stands at attention as Adolf Hitler shakes hands with an unidentified U-boat naval officer of the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) in 1942. Rogge was a quarter-Jew; his maternal grandmother was a Jew. Adolf Hitler “Aryanized” Admiral Bernhard Rogge and declared him deutschblütig (German blood) in 1939. In the Third Reich, only Adolf Hitler could grant exemptions (Aryanization papers) to Germans of partial Jewish descent who served in the Nazi German armed forces.

“No fewer than twenty-one generals, seven admirals, and one field marshal of Jewish descent served with Hitler’s consent. And thousands in the lower ranks of the Wehrmacht remained there because Hitler personally exempted them from the laws. Hitler did so mainly because they looked Aryan (that is, had blue eyes and blond hair), had good military records, had rendered Germany a unique service, or had come from distinguished families...Field Marshal Erhard Milch and General Helmut Wilberg were leading Luftwaffe personalities. Milch was second in command and basically ran the Luftwaffe with the help of Wilberg and a few other distinguished air force generals. Wilberg was a brilliant tactician who developed the operational concept called Blitzkrieg (lightning war) today. These men’s accomplishments help explain why Hitler Aryanized them. Most who received Hitler’s Deutschblütigkeitserklärung (declaration of German blood) had distinguished themselves in war and proven their worth as soldiers.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 171

“Just as shocking as Hitler’s perverse racial policies with respect to partial Jews in the Wehrmacht is that most Mischling soldiers did not know Hitler was murdering millions of Jews, including their relatives. Like most other Germans, they knew about Nazi deportations, but what happened at the deadly destinations lay beyond their knowledge or imagination. Oppenfeld, Gunther Scheffler, Kopp, and others knew about executions in the east, but not the systematic killing of millions in gas chambers. The most convincing proof that these men did not know what was happening is the story of half-Jews in the OT forced labor camps. Had half-Jews known about the Holocaust, one would expect them to have done everything they could to avoid deportation. But as this book shows, most reported when called...If Jews did not know the endgame of the Nazis, their Mischling relatives remained at least as ignorant of what Hitler’s plan would do to them. The story of Mischling soldiers illustrates how corrupt and demeaning the Nazi government was and how confusing its racial laws were. These Mischlinge fought for a regime that repaid their service by murdering their relatives and persecuting them. Furthermore, had Germany won the war, its leaders probably would have slaughtered half-Jews en masse too – something many came to realize in their OT



camps or after the war. Hitler's constant attention to the details of Mischling policy support the assumption that he was at least as intimately involved in the policies that affected them as in those that affected the Jews."

– *Lives of Hitler's Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 276-277

“Erhard Milch was a political animal and cared only about himself and his career. He was an opportunist and rarely worried about those he had to step on in order to climb the ladder of success. As a result, he had no problem becoming a Nazi Party member, and his actions also showed that he believed in many things the Nazis espoused. He was indeed an incredible organizer of the Luftwaffe, but also a nasty person and a hard-core Nazi. Erhard Alfred Richard Oskar Milch, born on 30 March 1892 in Wilhelmshaven, became a powerful man of the Third Reich in contrast to most of the other men in this book. Milch also became a field marshal (the U.S. equivalent of a five-star general) who, according to historian James Corum, “ran the Luftwaffe and was its most powerful figure for personnel and planning issues, production and even strategy.” His father, Anton, was a Jewish convert to Christianity. He ran a retail drug business and during World War I served as a quartermaster general for medical supplies. Milch’s mother, Clara (nee Vetter), was a gentile, although some people suspected her of being Jewish as well.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 172-173

“Helmut Wilberg was an officer and a gentleman. He radiated confidence, was built like a linebacker, and had clear blue eyes that stared out from his square face. He was apolitical, a consummate professional, a devoted family man and patriot. Although he served in armed forces loyal to Hitler, he disliked the Fuhrer. Like many documented in this study, he fought for Germany but not for the Nazis... Historian Matthew Cooper eloquently describes the dilemma in which Wilberg and many others found themselves under Hitler: “The generals who were faced with National Socialism were the prisoners of their own proud heritage. The tradition bestowed on them by their predecessors was one of unconditional personal obedience to, and identification with, the autocratic Head of State, coupled with a self-imposed isolation from the world of politics – an isolation which, although elevated to the status of a military virtue, took the form of political naiveté and ineptitude.” With this in mind, one can somewhat understand how officers like Prager, Rogge, and Wilberg served their nation with such passion and loyalty... Wilberg was born on 1 June 1880 in Berlin to a Jewish mother and a gentile father, who was a famous painter of landscapes and buildings.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 183-185

“Bernhard Rogge stood six feet three inches tall and weighed 220 pounds. He carried his body with control and excelled at sports. His military bearing exuded confidence and he was a strong leader. His demeanor commanded respect, and he was the soldier-gentleman *par excellence*. He always wore neatly starched and ironed clothes, and his whole appearance, from his precisely combed hair to his manicured fingernails and spit-polished shoes, showed that he paid careful attention to the details of life. He was a machine who always did his duty with 100 percent of his being. He took responsibility for everything that happened to him and around him. Bernhard Friedrich Carl Edgar Rogge was born on 4 November 1899. His mother was a homemaker and his father a government official. His maternal grandmother was Jewish, but her husband was Aryan.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 205

“Also fundamental to comprehending the bizarre situation in which Mischlinge wore the swastika on their uniforms, while their relatives had to wear the Star of David, is an understanding of their religious identity. Most parents of Mischlinge did not raise them as religious Jews, and most Mischlinge did not consider themselves Jewish until Hitler persecuted them. But the Nazi racial laws considered them all Jewish to one degree or another. On 14 November 1935, the Nazis issued a supplement to the Nuremberg Laws of 15 September 1935 that created the “racial” categories of German, Jew, “half-Jew (Jewish Mischling 1<sup>st</sup> Degree),” and “quarter-Jew (Jewish Mischling 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree),” each with its own regulations. These laws distinguished Germans from persons of Jewish heritage both biologically and socially. Full Jews had three or four Jewish grandparents, half-Jews had two Jewish grandparents, and quarter-Jews had one Jewish grandparent. If a person not of Jewish descent practiced the Jewish religion, the Nazis also counted him as a Jew. The Nazis resorted to religious records to define these “racial” categories, using birth, baptismal, marriage, and death certificates stored in churches, temples, Jewish Community Centers, and courthouses. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws provided the basis for further anti-Jewish legislation to preserve the purity of the “Aryan” race. The Nazis based their racial laws on the volkisch (ethnic in a racial sense) notion of the inherent superiority of the “Aryans.” These laws provided civil rights to those belonging to the Volk and having German “blood.” This created a “new morality which, in terms of the old system of values, seemed both unscrupulous and brutal.” The Nazis automatically denied Jews and Mischlinge citizenship privileges. However, under Article 7 of a supplementary decree of the Nuremberg Laws, Hitler could free individuals from the label Jew or Mischling by Aryanizing them with a stroke of his pen. In fact Hitler allowed several high-ranking officers of Jewish descent to remain in the military by Aryanizing them.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 12-13

“... [M]ost often non-German citizens could not serve in the Wehrmacht, but had to serve in the SS military arm. By war’s end, of the 940,000 men serving in the Waffen-SS, only 250,000 were actually German. Although the SS preached racial purity, it did not let it get in the way of its recruiting quotas except for those with “Jewish blood.” Unlike the Wehrmacht, which then drafted half- and quarter-Jews, the Waffen-SS did not allow anyone in its ranks with any Jewish ancestry. So no Mischlinge,

much less [Karl-Heinz] Lowy, a full Jew, could reveal their true ancestry if they wanted to remain in this organization [Waffen-SS].” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 61

## The Admiral’s Fictional Fate

By David H. Lippman  
December 2008

A few days ago, I caught the best part of a two-part documentary about the famous duel between HMS *Hood* and KM [Bismarck](#). An American research group was trying to locate the remains of both battleships, to settle the account of how and why they were sunk. The first half of the program covered *Hood*, and she was lying in several pieces at the bottom of the Denmark Strait, pretty much as contemporary accounts and later historians advertised.

In the second half, the undersea explorers located *Bismarck* — not as hard, because Robert Ballard had already found her years ago — and determined she had been sunk by British torpedoes before the scuttling charges went off.



**Gunther Lutjens.**

As part of the documentary, Gerhardt Lutjens, the son of German Admiral Gunther Lutjens, was interviewed at some length. He was a cheery elderly German, displaying great loyalty and admiration for his father. Nothing surprising there.

**But the real shock came when the documentary revealed that Gunther Lutjens was one-fourth Jewish. A Jewish grandmother, to be precise. They didn’t say which one it was, paternal or maternal, but if it was maternal, he would have been Jewish under Jewish law.**

That was a thunderclap for me, for obvious reasons — a Jewish German admiral sank HMS *Hood*? You bet, wow.

But it actually made some sense. I knew that Lutjens didn’t think much of Hitler and his strutting Nazis, and privately despaired when Germany went to war. In the documentary, Gerhardt quoted his father as saying Germany had no chance in the war, because of her oil shortages. In 1938, he and other German naval officers of Jewish ancestry fired off angry telegrams to Hitler, protesting Kristallnacht. I don’t know how Hitler responded, but I can’t imagine it was positive. A move like that from a serving flag officer took a lot of guts. But Lutjens was not punished.

Instead, he took command of the battle-cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, leading them on a fairly successful raiding cruise in the Atlantic in February and March 1941. Under cautious handling, the two dreadnoughts sank 22 Allied merchant ships for a total of 115,600 tons, effectively disrupting the British convoy cycles for a time. Lutjens could not attack well-defended convoys with his ships, knowing that a minor hit on one of his battle-cruisers would be enough to put them out of action, far from a friendly dockyard. So when his ships ran into convoys with battleship escort, he withdrew.

After their cruise, Lutjens’ two big ships found precarious refuge at Brest in occupied France, where they spent most of the next year in dockworkers’ hands and under British air attack.



Lutjens wasn't there to see the welding and bombing. He was summoned back to Berlin in April 1941 to take command of a task force of two ships, the *Bismarck* and the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, fitting out at Gotenhafen, known also as Gdynia, or Gdansk.

The grandiose German plan was to have the two new ships sail from Germany in May 1941 and break into the Atlantic, and the two battle-cruisers at Brest sortie at the same time, cutting loose the full punch of the German surface fleet on the British convoy routes. However, the plan began to disintegrate from the start. *Scharnhorst* needed her boilers overhauled. British bombs took *Gneisenau* out of the game. The *Prinz Eugen* hit a mine, making her a dockyard case for three weeks. The Germans were running out of reasonably long nights to break into the Atlantic (and if they chose to go through the Denmark Strait, nights at all). Lutjens wanted to wait until the ships at Brest were ready. He was overruled by his bosses. Hitler was getting ready to invade Russia, and once the Wehrmacht's tanks plunged into the Soviet Union, there would be no fuel for large-scale naval operations. And with the Germans attacking in the Mediterranean, the pressure was on to put a strain on the Royal Navy wherever possible.

### **‘Win Through or Die’**

Lutjens took *Bismarck* and *Prinz Eugen* to sea on May 18, 1941, with great misgivings, and showed a distinct lack of aggression in the cruise.

When *Bismarck* met up with *Hood* on May 23, Lutjens wanted to avoid battle and sail away. The *Bismarck*'s captain, Karl Ernst Lindemann, was tougher material. He reputedly told his boss, “I’m not going to stand here and let them kick my ship in the backside. If you don’t want to fight, I will!”

After *Bismarck* disposed of *Hood*, Lutjens learned his ship had taken a hit forward that damaged her oil tanks. He would have to turn aside or back. Lutjens wanted to go home to Germany. Lindemann convinced Lutjens to go forward, and head into a French port, maybe knocking off a convoy en route. Lutjens agreed and sailed on, heading for France. He cut loose the *Prinz Eugen* for independent raiding, but she proved a washout, due to damaged propellers.



### ***Bismarck* at sea.**

Then, on his 51st birthday, Lutjens addressed the battleship's crew. After thanking them for presumed good birthday wishes, he told *Bismarck*'s sailors the whole Royal Navy was coming for them, and it was “win through or die.”

The gloomy speech depressed the sailors, wrecking morale. Lutjens was just trying to correct an air of overconfidence, but the speech also reflected his own depression and sense of advancing age. He apparently told his son that he did not expect to survive the *Bismarck*

cruise, let alone the war. Two days later, *Bismarck* was caught by British torpedo-bombers from HMS *Ark Royal*, which crippled the battleship with a dramatic and well-placed torpedo to the rudders, which jammed them.

Unable to maneuver in a heavy sea, she drifted helplessly north and west straight into the guns of the Royal Navy's battleships HMS *King George V* and HMS *Rodney*, and those two British battleships and their escorts sent *Bismarck* to the bottom.

During the long night between the torpedo hit and the final battle, Lutjens and Lindemann stayed on the bridge, struggling to free their jammed rudder, heartsick and sore. Nobody knows how the pair met their end — one of the first British hits smashed the flag bridge and set it ablaze. Admiral Gunther Lutjens died in battle, his torn flag still flying from the *Bismarck*'s shredded mainmast. So did more than 2,000 members of the *Bismarck*'s crew. Only 110 were pulled out of the freezing Atlantic Ocean.

It was a cruel fate for any seaman, and the fact that Lutjens was one-fourth Jewish made it worse. Under Nazi law, he was supposed to die anyway. Only his uniform kept Lutjens alive.

During the war, the German Navy did a fair job of protecting officers with Jewish blood. That included Bernhard Rogge, who commanded the highly successful merchant raider *Atlantis*, which sank 22 ships before being caught and sunk by the cruiser HMS *Devonshire*.

However, the top German seadogs, Grand Admirals Erich Raeder and Karl Doenitz, were themselves fairly anti-Semitic, Doenitz more so than Raeder. Both drew verbal fire at Nuremberg for their wartime statements to the fleet, in which both urged the new German Navy to purge itself of the Jewish influence.

Apparently those remarks fell on some deaf ears, because Lutjens and Rogge only faced death at the hands of their enemies, not their countrymen.

Still, I had to believe that if Lutjens had escaped death in the *Bismarck* fiasco, he certainly would have been blamed for the mess, and his Jewish ancestry would have been used against him. He could very well have joined millions of victims with greater Jewish pedigree — albeit fewer medals — in the gas chamber at Auschwitz.

### The Other Lutjens

Lutjens met the better of two fates: dying in battle as a hero instead of being gassed in a concentration camp as a helpless victim. Today the German Navy has a destroyer named for Gunther Lutjens, and one of the better-known and true e-mails floating around cyberspace is how the new Lutjens' crew manned their ship's rail on September 11, 2001, and held up a sign saying "We will stand by you" to an alongside American warship. Gunther would probably have approved.

He would have been less happy about the other and better-known public use of his name: the movie *Sink the Bismarck*. It's one of my favorites, for obvious reasons.

Karel Stepanek, a veteran Czech actor, played the admiral. Born in 1899, Stepanek apparently was a rising star in the Czech film industry until Hitler showed up. His list of credits on the [Internet Movie Database](#), reports that he fled to America in 1938, got work as Germans and Eastern Europeans in movies like *The Heroes of Telemark* and *Robin Hood*, retired in 1971, and passed away on Christmas Day, 1980, in London. It's interesting that the guy who plays the Nazi admiral was himself a refugee from Nazism.



**Karel Stepanek as Gunther Lutjens.**

Stepanek has the craggy face for his role and makes Lutjens commanding and determined, but sadly, the screenwriter (who based it on C.S. Forester's novel) wrote the cinematic Lutjens all wrong. The result is that Stepanek gets it all wrong.

As portrayed, Lutjens in the movie is a loyal and fanatical Nazi. The filmic Lutjens talks about how he had his career ruined by the Treaty of Versailles, so he joined up with Hitler and rode to power on Nazi coattails. Now he seeks glory for Nazi Germany by

destroying the British fleet. Lindemann is portrayed as a more reasonable and realistic officer, concerned with his ship's crew and its survival.

In the film, Lutjens repeatedly orders Lindemann to be aggressive when caution is clearly needed. All the way through, Lutjens believes Hitler's promises that the Luftwaffe will come to save Bismarck, and is stunned when the Fuhrer's guarantees guarantee nothing. He dies a stunned, slightly repentant Nazi.

I suspect that Stepanek played this role deliberately, to remind forgetful audiences 15 years after V-E Day that while the German Navy fought a hard and tough but clean and chivalrous war, they were serving one of the most evil ideologies in history. Stepanek would have seen that ideology in action for himself, losing his country, friends, and family to the Gestapo and Nazi terror, and thus had a vested interest in reminding film audiences of that point.

He's right, but he did it with the wrong guy.

It's actually very sad to see this depiction of Lutjens. The 1960 screenwriters did a decent job with the film. The research on the operations and ships involved is accurate, there's a good mix of stock footage and exploding warship models, Kenneth More and Lawrence Naismith provide the requisite Royal Navy "let's win this battle, chaps" determination, Dana Wynter provides visual relief, and Edward R. Murrow brings gravitas by playing himself in his wartime role as CBS radio news commentator from London.

But the war had been over for 15 years, and they could have made the effort to dig a little bit into Lutjens and his family. The German side of the story was a little more open by then.

It would have made for a better story — the conflicted admiral, battling the competing concepts of national loyalty and family loyalty. He knew what the Nazis were doing, and he knew they were wrong. He knew the war was lost from the beginning, and his family was, by definition, an enemy of the state. Yet he still went out and did his best to bring Hitler victory, and died on his bridge, as defiant as his crippled battleship.

Heck, it's a better story than Erwin Rommel, whose connections to the plot to kill Hitler are spotty at best. Rommel admired Hitler until things went wrong, and his actual role in the Bomb Plot of July 20th is still argued over by scholars. Either way, Hitler made him a scapegoat for the plot and the continuing string of military defeats.

### **Choices Never Made**

Lutjens deserves better, from both filmmakers and history. He was a conflicted and depressed man, shoehorned by upbringing and tradition into a situation he dreaded but could not avoid. As a high-ranking officer in the German Navy, steeped in tradition, he could not turn against his government, or flee to safety, either before the war, or on the bridge of his battleship. He faced the conflicting demands and resigned himself to doing his duty and dying honorably. I can imagine him pacing the bridges of his flagships, alternately struggling with plotting his ships' next move while pondering the insanity of his situation — leading the most powerful battleships in his nation's Navy in an effort to achieve the destruction of his own people. He must have struggled with long thoughts of fuel supplies and honor, reconnaissance information and loyalty. No wonder he was so depressed on *Bismarck's* cruise. No wonder he didn't want to fight.

I've often wondered what Lutjens thought when he stood on his flag bridge that last morning, peering through his Zeiss binoculars, seeing the immense gray bulks of HMS *King George V* and HMS *Rodney* steaming towards him. At that moment, Lutjens was commanding a nearly immobile battleship, locked on a slow and predictable course, short of fuel and anti-aircraft ammunition, her very young crew exhausted from six days of steaming at action stations and demoralized by the crippling damage she had suffered. Lutjens had two options at that moment: fight and likely condemn most of his crew to horrible deaths or strike his flag (perhaps after a short action) to save their lives.

The first course would gratify Hitler's desire to see the whole world destroyed in true Wagnerian fashion and turn Bismarck's crew and himself into martyred Nazi demi-gods, an ironic fate for the part-Jew Lutjens.





**Gunther Lütjens, on Hitler's right, escorts the Führer on an inspection of Bismarck. Karl Ernst Lindemann is second from left.**

However, such a gesture, while probably pleasing to Hitler and preserving honor, would not preserve young lives. Nor was there any point to such a battle: *Bismarck* was outgunned, outnumbered, and outmaneuvered. Her sacrifice would gain the Reich nothing, and indeed, reveal its incapacity and weakness in battle. Martyrdom would not win a war, and only send promising young German sailors to vile and useless deaths. Perhaps Lütjens' real duty at that moment was no longer to his Führer or the Nazi system, but to the young men in his charge, and to preserve their lives. He could strike his flag, transfer his men in orderly fashion to the British ships, scuttle his own vessel, and be remembered as a leader who stood for humanity amid world's most terrible war.

On the other hand, the German High Seas Fleet's chief accomplishment to date had been to scuttle itself in Scapa Flow in 1919, as the result of an erroneous four-day-old report in a British newspaper, and that debacle still cast a shadow over the German Navy. If Lütjens did strike his flag, it would also be seen as a dishonorable move, an act of high treason, and defile and humiliate the entire Germany Navy's officer corps. An Admiral could not just "strike his flag."

And looming over these two choices had to have been Lütjens' thoughts about Germany, Nazism, Hitler, and the fate of Europe's Jews — and his relatives.

We will never know what epiphany Lütjens had, if any, on that flag bridge, because the first shells to hit *Bismarck* killed him, but he may have taken the middle course: put up a fight long enough to save honor, then surrender when the battle was clearly lost. Maybe.

### **Is Hollywood Listening?**

I suppose that some day there will be a movie about Gunther Lütjens and the *Bismarck* again. Now that James Cameron and his Hollywood colleagues have replaced writing and acting in movies with special effects, they'll do to the *Bismarck* what *Titanic* did to . . . well, the *Titanic*.

In the new movie, Kate Winslet will probably be the Jewish girl who escapes from a train to Auschwitz, and then slips aboard the *Bismarck*. Lütjens, played by Arnold Schwarzenegger, will hide Winslet on the battleship from the Gestapo. But her life will ultimately be saved by Leonardo Di Caprio, who will play the sailor actually assigned to watch over her.

Naturally, *Bismarck* will not be sunk by the Royal Navy (whoever heard of the British doing anything right in a modern war movie?), but by a crack American team of commandos led by Mel Gibson, Wesley Snipes, and Jennifer Lopez (who will also sing the theme song). Alan Rickman or David Warner will play a high-ranking British officer of the aristocratic and overbearing type, who is actually a traitor, in league with the Germans. The ships hunting for *Bismarck* will be modern American vessels, except for some token British cockneys and Scots, who will offer comic relief.

In the film's climax, Di Caprio himself (and an army of stuntmen) will fight a massive barefist brawl with Schwarzenegger to save Winslet, while Gibson and Snipes fly their F-15 fighter jet between the battleship's funnels to sink the dreadnought, pursued by Rickman in a TIE fighter. Di Caprio, of course, will die just as he puts Winslet in the life raft with Gibson and Snipes.

Film critics will hail the movie for its special effects wizardry, the tragic love story, and its historic accuracy. TV political pundits will complain that today's American and British youth are nowhere near as tough as the heroes who "sank the *Bismarck*," and actual veterans who fought the battle will complain bitterly about the filmic treatment in letters-to-the-editor of their local newspapers, which will be ignored. I think that will be a worse disaster than the real sea battle.

Source: [http://www.avalanche-press.com/admiral\\_lutjens.php](http://www.avalanche-press.com/admiral_lutjens.php)



Günther Lütjens (May 25, 1889-May 27, 1941) was a German Admiral whose military service spanned almost three decades. Lütjens is most well-known for his actions during World War II, primarily his command of the German ship *Bismarck* and her consort, *Prinz Eugen*, during the Operation *Rheinübung* sortie. Admiral Lütjens refused to give the Nazi salute and opposed the Nazi regime. Admiral Lütjens' grandmother was a Jew; Admiral Lütjens once wrote a letter to Adolf Hitler protesting *Kristallnacht*.



*Heil Davy: A Nazi Visit to the Alamo* by Kevin R. Young

**It seems everyone who comes to San Antonio wants to be at least seen at the Alamo. Accounts of Alamo visitors, J. H. Barnard in 1836 to John Madden, have appeared in books and newspaper articles, while Alamo visits have been recorded by photography since 1849. Sometimes Alamo visitors go on to become part of history themselves. This is one of those stories.**

In May 1941, the free world followed a drama on the high seas. The *Kriegsmarine Bismark*, renowned and feared as the most powerful battleship afloat, had broken out into the Atlantic. The threat of this monster's firepower was driven home when, in its first combat, it sank the *HMS Hood*.

A combined effort of British capital warships and naval planes tracked Bismark down. With her rudder damaged from a British torpedo, Bismark could not maneuver, and was still too far from occupied France to seek aid from either naval or air support. The British fleet closed in, and on May 27, the pride of the German Navy was reduced to a burning hulk that sank to the bottom of the Atlantic. With Bismark went hundreds of her crew, including her captain and Fleet Commander Admiral Gunter Lutjens.

Lutjens is often presented as the typical German especially in the film, *Sink the Bismark!* He was, after all, taking a powerful vessel into open water to smash the convoys bringing supplies to the British - the life lines to the people of Great Britain, locked in a struggle alone against the conquest of Adolph Hitler. But Lutjens was also the man who once insisted on visiting the Alamo so he could pay silent tribute to the courage of its defenders.

It was some six years earlier, San Antonio was still in the Great Depression when the officers and men of Karlsruhe came to pay their respects to the men of the Alamo. The *Bride of Frankenstein* was playing at the local movie house, Texans were watching the trial of Bonnie and Clyde sidekick Claude Hamilton, and Bess Carol was starting her series of articles on the centennial of the Texas Revolution. This was before the Kristallnacht, before the invasion of Poland, France and Dunkirk. The *Riechsmarine* had sent two cruisers, Karlsruhe and Emden on a world cruise. The mission was a "good will tour" and more importantly, a high seas training cruise for the German Naval Class or crew of 1934. Some 318 future German naval officers, separated into two groups, joined the crews of the two cruisers, Lutjens was then captain of Karlsruhe. Such cruisers were part of the regular training of German Naval cadets. The Karlsruhe had been commissioned in November 1929. A "K" class, cruiser, she displaced at 6,650 tons with a top speed of 30 knots, a crew of 820 and main armament of 9 six-inch guns. Lutjens was a long time veteran of the German Navy, starting his career in 1907.

While Emden took a route through the Indian Ocean, Karlsruhe was to visit South America, up the Pacific Coast as far as Vancouver and then back down to Panama, through the Canal to the Gulf of Mexico and then home to Kiel. Lutjens set sail on October 22, 1934. The tour took Karlsruhe to the Azores, Trinidad, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Colombia, San Francisco and Canada then back down to Acapulco, Guatemala, through the Panama Canal to Houston, then to Charleston and back home. Los Angeles was later added to the stop overs. The cruiser returned home on June 20, 1935.

The trip was not without some incident, especially considering Hitler's defiance of the Versailles Treaty and the growing suppression of human rights in Germany. Labor unions protested the arrival of the German cruiser at San Francisco and Vancouver. But Lutjens, his crew and the cadets remained on their best behavior. The German Navy had remained independent of the growing Nazi changes. The swastika would not be added to the naval ensigns until the fall of 1935. Admiral Raeder insisted on keeping Jewish officers in the ranks as well as retaining the old Naval salute.

In late April 1935, Karlsruhe was on its homeward end of the cruise when the cruiser made its stop at Houston. It remained there for over a week. Lutjens, the crew and cadets took advantage of the stop to visit various spots in Texas. Lutjens himself went to Austin, visited with Governor James V. Allred and spoke to a joint session of the Texas Legislature. His next stop was a quick flight to Kelly Field in San Antonio on April 30th. A luncheon was held at the Plaza Hotel where the captain and his aide, Lieutenant Commander Alfred Schemmel was honored by the mayor, county commissioners and Kelly Field commander, Colonel Jacob E. Fickel. Following lunch, Lutjens and Schemmel called on the commander of Fort Sam Houston.



The trip to San Antonio was near complete when Lutjens expressed his concern that he was not going to be allowed to visit the Alamo. Despite a tight schedule, Lutjens insisted on visiting "your city's famous shrine." The German captain's visit was brief, but moving, as he removed his cap and bowed his head in silent tribute to the heroes of 1836. He was visibly impressed with his Alamo experience.

Two days later, on May 1st, a second group of officers from Karlsruhe arrived in San Antonio. This group was headed by Lieutenants H.W. Grosse and E. G. Bachmann, along with two warrant officers, two petty officers, four seaman and four of the cadets. They too visited the Alamo, and in a special ceremony, placed a wreath honoring the Alamo heroes. In a well published photo which ran the following day in the San Antonio Light, Bachmann, Warrant Officer Schlicht and Lt. Grosse can be seen with the rest of the crew inside the Alamo, giving the now infamous extended arm "Nazi" salute.

After the Alamo ceremony, the party was given a Mexican luncheon and then taken on a site seeing tour of the city and scenic loop territory (Hellotes area). The group returned to Houston and the Karlsruhe the next morning. Karlsruhe was to play a part in the upcoming war or at least, the first year of it. Following the invasion of Norway, the cruiser was returning from Kristiansand when the British submarine, Truant, hit her with a torpedo on April 9, 1940. Badly damaged, the cruiser had to be finished off with torpedoes fired from a German vessel.

Those members of Crew 34 went on to wartime careers in all branches of the Kriegsmarine. At least one of those on the 1935 visit to Texas also ended up with Lutjens on the maiden and final voyage of the Bismark. Baron Burkard Von Mullenheim-Rechberg, who was a member of Karlsruhe crew during the trip, served originally as adjutant to Bismark's captain and later as fourth gunnery officer of the ill-fated battleship. He lived through Bismark's final fight, the highest ranking officer to survive.

Lutjens, who had insisted on stopping at the Alamo to pay his respects to those who had fought against overwhelming odds, found himself in the same position that fateful day in 1941. In one of his last addresses to the crew he said, "We will fight until our gun barrels glow red hot and the last shell has left the barrels. For us seamen, the question is now victory or death." The reasons why were far different, but nevertheless, the story of the Bismark is still the stuff legends, songs, stories, and movies and fascination are made of.

*From the October 1996 "Alamo Courier" the journal of the Alamo Battlefield Association.*

<http://www.tamu.edu/faculty/ccbn/dewitt/adp/archives/feature/nazi.html>



Admiral Günther Lütjens (seen to the right of Adolf Hitler) escorts Adolf Hitler on his inspection of the Bismarck on May 5, 1941. To Hitler's left is Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel (just over Hitler's right shoulder) and Kapitän zur See (Captain) Ernst Lindemann, Bismarck's commanding officer (second from left). Admiral Gunther Lutjens and his entire Bismarck crew perished on May 27, 1941, after engaging in a firefight with a British battleship the day before.

# Field Marshal Erhard Milch & Friends



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-2005-0191  
Foto: o. Ang. | April 1936 ca.

Lieutenant General Erhard Milch (left), General Hermann Göring (2<sup>nd</sup> left), Chancellor Adolf Hitler (2<sup>nd</sup> right), and SA Chief of Staff Viktor Lutze (right) at the formation of Luftwaffe JG 134 'Horst Wessel' squadron in April 1936.

(Photo: German Federal Archive) [http://ww2db.com/image.php?image\\_id=7664](http://ww2db.com/image.php?image_id=7664)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H29051  
Foto: o. Ang., 1. Mai 1939

Adolf Hitler inspects the Westwall fortifications on western Germany in May 1939; also present were Erhard Milch, Heinrich Himmler, and Wilhelm Keitel. (Photo: German Federal Archive) [http://ww2db.com/image.php?image\\_id=11572](http://ww2db.com/image.php?image_id=11572)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H12262  
Foto: o. Ang., 1. September 1938

Left to right: Field Marshal Erhard Milch, Wilhelm Keitel, Walther von Brauchitsch, Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, and Maximilian von Weichs attend a Nazi Party rally in Nuremberg, Germany in September 1938.

(Photo: German Federal Archives)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1983-0210-507  
Foto: Hoffmann, Heinrich | 15. Oktober 1940

Adolf Hitler (right) stands at attention in front of subordinate officers Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Field Marshal Erhard Milch, and Friedrich Fromm at the funeral of Admiral Adolf von Trotha in Berlin, Germany on October 15, 1940. (Photo: German Federal Archive) [http://ww2db.com/image.php?image\\_id=11388](http://ww2db.com/image.php?image_id=11388)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H0422-0502-001  
Foto: o.Äng. | 28. November 1941

Foreground, left to right: Martin Bormann, Julius Schaub, Adolf Hitler, Karl Brandt, and Luftwaffe Field Marshal Erhard Milch (holding a baton in his right hand) attend the funeral service of Werner Mölders at the Reich Air Ministry in Berlin, Germany on November 28, 1941. (Photo: German Federal Archive) [http://ww2db.com/image.php?image\\_id=11562](http://ww2db.com/image.php?image_id=11562)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1983-0117-06  
Foto: Boesig, Heinz | 21. März 1943

In the front row, from left to right: Hanns Oberlindober, Fedor von Bock, Luftwaffe Field Marshal Erhard Milch, Heinrich Himmler, Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Hermann Goering, and Adolf Hitler attend a service during Memorial Day in Berlin on March 21, 1943. (Photo: German Federal Archive)



Adolf Hitler (left) shakes hands with Heinrich Himmler while Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, and Field Marshal Erhard Milch (right) salute to Hitler.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-J00683  
Foto: o. Ang. | 14. März 1942

Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel (left), SS Chief Heinrich Himmler (center), Luftwaffe Field Marshal Erhard Milch (right) meet in Berlin on March 14, 1942. (Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))

“As the Nazis gained power, Milch often met with Goring to discuss a new air force. He granted the Reichswehr access to Lufthansa’s archives to stay abreast of modern technology in airplane design and performance. In 1929 he told Goring that he was ready to join the Nazi Party. The fact that he wanted to join the Nazis at this time, when only a minority of Germans thought Hitler could come to power, shows he truly believed in the Fascists’ ideals. According to James Corum, Milch was an officer who “fell completely under Hitler’s spell.” However, Hitler felt at that time they should wait to make him a member. The party issued him membership card number 123,885 but left it blank so Milch could claim it in the future. Only in March 1933 did he become a member retroactive to April 1929. When Hitler took power in 1933, he wanted Milch to help build an air force and told him, “Now look, I haven’t known you for very long, but you’re a man who knows his job, and we have few in the Party who know as much about the air as you. That’s why the choice has fallen on you. You must take the job. It’s not a question of the Party, as you seem to think – it’s a question of Germany and Germany needs you.” Milch admitted later that this talk with Hitler convinced him to take the job but his ancestry still remained a thorn in his side. Goring, Hitler, and other high-ranking Nazis took care of this problem. Milch noted in his diary as early as 1 November 1933 that Goring had discussed his ancestry with Hitler, deputy head of the party Rudolf Hess, and the minister of defense, General Werner von Blomberg, and that “everything was in order.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 175



Heinrich Himmler (third from left), Field Marshal Erhard Milch (center front), Reinhard Heydrich (third from right), and other prominent Nazis stand together for a group portrait. (Photo: <http://forum.boinaslava.net/showthread.php?t=5760>)

“...[S]ome people of Jewish descent participated directly as perpetrators in the Holocaust, primarily because of their rank and responsibilities. But like most high-ranking Nazi officials at the Nuremberg Trials, Milch lied when he swore that he did not know about the Holocaust. When asked at Nuremberg about Nazi extermination policies he denied all knowledge of the Holocaust and said that until after the war, he had only known about Dachau and Sachsenhausen. After hearing so many rumors about those camps from 1933 to 1935, he had asked permission from Himmler to visit Dachau. Himmler granted him permission and Milch visited the camp in 1935...He claimed he had no knowledge of what the Nazis did in other camps during Hitler’s rule. But he had read reports from Sigmund Rascher, the notorious doctor at Dachau who conducted brutal experiments. Milch wrote the head of Himmler’s personal staff, SS General Karl Wolff, on 20 March 1942 about the “interesting” experiments at Dachau. On 31 August 1942, Milch also wrote Himmler to express his interest in Rascher’s high-altitude physiology tests in Dachau. These tests were approved by the Luftwaffe and resulted in painful deaths for the human guinea pigs. Nonetheless, useful data were collected. Tests also involved immersing inmates in freezing water to see how long pilots shot down over the sea could live. All inmates died in these experiments and Milch was kept fully informed. Some inmates were actually turned over to the Luftwaffe testing facilities in Munich, where it conducted these test itself. When the Nazis conducted these tests, Milch and the Luftwaffe, not the SS or Dachau, were directly responsible for them. These experiments were done with Milch’s support and on his initiative. As a result, according to historian James Corum, “This alone makes Milch a genuine war criminal.” As the tribunal wrote of Milch, he was not upset about the inhumanity perpetrated by the Nazis. He was upset only by the fact that Germany was losing the war. Besides approving of these horrible experiments, Milch also served as cochairman with Speer on the Pursuit-Plans-Staff, which needed about a quarter-million slave workers. Milch knew of about 100,000 Hungarian Jews expected in Auschwitz whose labor his project could use. With respect to slave labor Milch (probably in 1942) told General Carl-August von Gablenz that he wanted him “to get in touch with [General Herman] Reinecke concerning the French POW’s. **I demand that if the people refuse to work they immediately be placed against the wall and shot.**” So Milch was guilty of war crimes. In 1947, the Allies sentenced Milch to life in prison at the Second Nuremberg Trial for deporting and mishandling foreign workers and conducting criminal experiments on human beings. As historian Georg Meyer asserted, Milch can be considered a “German Jewish war criminal.” However, his sentence was reduced and in 1954 he was discharged. He then advised the German air industry until his death in 1972.” – *Lives of Hitler’s Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg, p. 182-183





Prince Chichibu (1902-1953, center, left), younger brother of Emperor Hirohito of Japan, meets with German Luftwaffe Field Marshal Erhard Milch (1892-1972, center, right) during a visit to a military airfield at Gatow in Berlin, Germany on September 9, 1937. (Photo by FPG/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)



American aviator Charles Lindbergh (left) chats with General Erhard Milch (right) at a party in Munich, Germany on October 12, 1937. (Photo: [http://www.archiv2008.national-zeitung.de/NZ18\\_1.html](http://www.archiv2008.national-zeitung.de/NZ18_1.html))



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-J00243  
Foto: Schwahn | 23. Januar 1942

Left to right: Wilhelm Frick, Philipp Bouhler, Friedrich Fromm, Joseph Goebbels, Admiral Erich Raeder, and Field Marshal Erhard Milch appear at Field Marshal Reichenau's funeral procession on January 23, 1942. (Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))



Luftwaffe field marshal Erhard Milch listens to his verdict as he is sentenced to life imprisonment by the Americans at Nuremberg. At his side is his lawyer Dr. Friedrich Bergold. John McCloy, the American High Commissioner to Germany, commuted Milch's prison sentence. Milch was convicted at Nuremberg for crimes against humanity for his involvement in murdering an estimated 6 million Jews and millions of other

prisoners; Milch's father was a Jew. Erhard Milch was released from prison in June 1954; he lived out the remainder of his life at Dusseldorf, where he died in 1972. (Photo: [http://www.fpp.co.uk/Letters/History\\_07/Milch\\_250607.html](http://www.fpp.co.uk/Letters/History_07/Milch_250607.html))



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1079-187-16  
Foto: o. Ang. | 1940/1943 ca.

Hermann Göring (left) and Field Marshal Erhard Milch walk together in 1940. (Photo: [German Federal Archives](http://www.fpp.co.uk/Letters/History_07/Milch_250607.html))





Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H28070  
Foto: o. Ang. | 12. Oktober 1935

A meeting for the Reich Ministry of Air in Berlin on October 12, 1935. From left to right: Der Baumeister Prof. Dr. Ing. [Ernst] Sagebiel, Reichsluftfahrtminister [Air Force Minister] General der Flieger Hermann Göring, der Zimmerpolier Franz Hecht, Staatssekretär Erhard Milch, and unidentified. (Photo: [German Federal Archives](http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/3245510/Hulton-Archive))



Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) stands with Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945) (to his immediate left) and his staff, contemplating the chances of an invasion while looking across the English Channel from Calais, France in August 1940 during World War II. Among those present are Martin Bormann (1900-1945) and General Erhard Milch (1892-1972). (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images) (Source: <http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/3245510/Hulton-Archive>)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-2005-0103-516  
Foto: Hoffmann | 1936

General [der Flieger] Erhard Milch (front, second from right) appears with Oberst Schulz (front, left) and Fascist Italy's Foreign Minister Galeazzo Ciano (front, second from left) in 1936. (Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))



Italian Air Marshal Italo Balbo (front, white uniform) and Nazi German Air Force [Luftwaffe] General Erhard Milch (front, dark uniform) walk together after a wreath laying ceremony for the dead of the First World War at the cenotaph on Unter den Linden in Berlin, Germany on August 10, 1938. (© Austrian Archives/CORBIS)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-2006-0103-511  
Foto: o. Ang. | 4. Oktober 1937

André François-Poncet (left), the French Ambassador to Nazi Germany, chats with General Erhard Milch at an airport in Berlin on October 4, 1937. André François-Poncet was imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II.  
(Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))





Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1997-0923-500  
Foto: Hubmann, Hanns | Mai 1944

Field Marshal Erhard Milch (center) appears with Minister of Armaments Albert Speer (left) in May 1944.  
(Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H28426  
Foto: o. Ang. / Mai 1944

Field Marshal Erhard Milch (center) meets with Minister of Armaments Albert Speer (left) and aircraft designer Willy Messerschmitt in May 1944. (Photo: [German Federal Archive](#))



Detained Nazi German war criminal Field Marshal Erhard Milch (far right) is seen meeting with other detained Nazi German war criminals in Nuremberg.

**Der Preussische Ministerpräsident.**

Berlin W 8, den 7. August 1935  
Wilhelmstr. 60.  
Fernspr.: A 2 Jlosa 8341, 7071.

Sl. M.

Streng vertraulich.

Der Führer und Reichskanzler hat auf meinen ihm gehaltenen Vortrag hin die arische Abstammung des Staatssekretärs und Generalleutnants

Erhard M i l c h , geboren 30.3.1892 zu  
Wilhelmshaven

anerkannt. In Durchführung des Befehls des Führers ersuche ich Sie, die standesamtlichen Unterlagen dahin zu berichtigen, dass der Vater des Staatssekretärs, der verstorbene Baumeister Carl Bräuer, zuletzt wohnhaft Berlin-Grünwald Königsallee 9, als solcher eingetragen wird. - Das gleiche gilt für die Geschwister.

Mit Rücksicht auf die Wichtigkeit der Angelegenheit ersuche ich um umgehende Erledigung und Bericht an mich.

Heil Hitler!

An  
den Leiter der Reichsstelle  
für Sippenforschung.

B e r l i n



Hermann Goering's August 7, 1935 letter to his Nazi superiors regarding General (later Field Marshal) Erhard Milch's ancestry. Hermann Goering declared Milch an "Aryan" by claiming that Milch's uncle (Milch's mother's brother) was his real father. Erhard Milch's biological father, Anton Milch, was a Jew. The Nuremberg Laws were promulgated in September 1935. (Source: <http://www.fpp.co.uk/Auschwitz/docs/Milch070835.html>)



## EXCERPTS OF *HITLER'S JEWISH SOLDIERS*



Side and front photographs of "half-Jew" Anton Mayer, similar to those that often accompanied a Mischling's application for exemption.



Military service book of "half-Jew" Hermann Aub. The Third Reich conscripted all German men (except full Jews) into military service, including Germans of partial Jewish descent. The Third Reich banned most Germans of partial Jewish descent, also known as Mischlinge, from the Wehrmacht by the end of 1940. A vast majority of the Mischlinge was born to German parents, raised as Christians, and identified themselves as Germans.

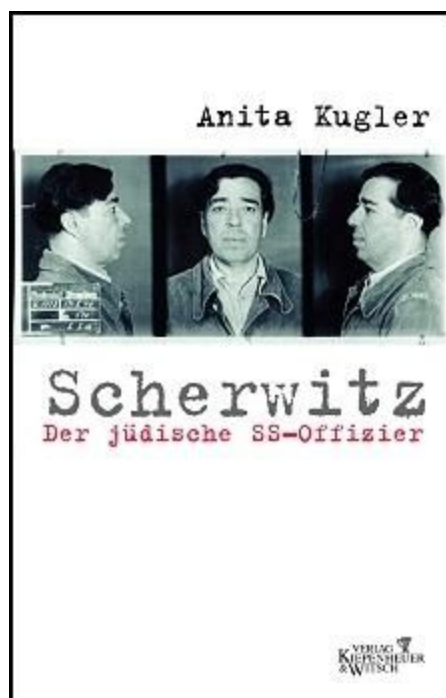


Germans soldiers, including soldiers of partial Jewish descent, take the oath of allegiance to Hitler. Abwehr (German Secret Service) officer Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Bloch, whose father was a Jew, rescued the ultra-Orthodox Jewish rabbi, the Lubavitcher Rebbe Joseph Isaac Schneersohn in Warsaw, Poland in November 1939, two months after Adolf Hitler's army invaded Poland. Lubavitcher Rebbe Joseph Isaac Schneersohn evacuated to New York City via Berlin, Riga, and Stockholm in 1940 after the U.S. State Department issued a visa to Schneersohn. Adolf Hitler "Aryanized" Ernst Bloch in 1939.

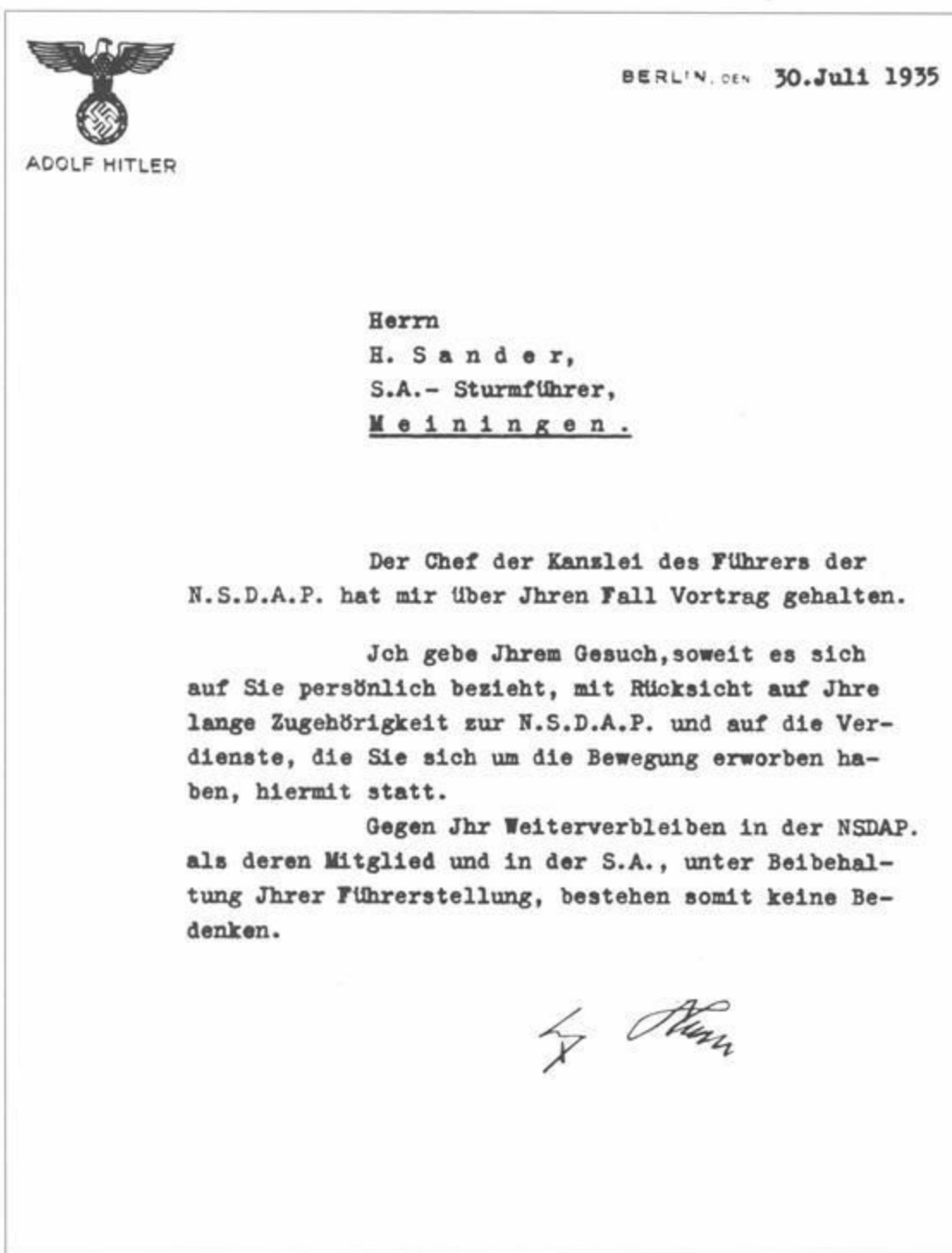
Quarter-Jew and SA  
Sturmführer (Lieutenant)  
Hans Sander in 1935; he was  
also a Party member and  
was awarded the Gold Party  
Badge; he later received  
Hitler's *Deutschblütigkeits-  
erklärung* and served in the  
army (last rank lieutenant).  
(Military award: EKII.)



(Source: *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg)



Anita Kugler is the author of *Scherwitz: The Jewish SS Officer*. Fritz Scherwitz was a Jew and a Nazi Party member who served as a commander of a concentration camp near Riga, Latvia during World War II.



Document from Hitler allowing quarter-Jew SA Sturmführer (Lieutenant) Hans Sander to remain in the Party. A loose translation reads: "Adolf Hitler, Berlin, 30 July 1935. To H. Sander, S.A.-Sturmführer, Meiningen. The head of the KdF [Kanzlei des Führers] of the NSDAP has presented your case to me. I approve your petition insofar as it regards you personally in consideration of your long membership in the Party and because of your noteworthy service to our movement. There is no reason why you should not remain in the Party or the SA and retain your leadership position. Signed: Adolf Hitler."

(Source: *Hitler's Jewish Soldiers* by Bryan Mark Rigg)





ADOLF HITLER

10  
BERLIN, den 27. Oktober 1937.

Nach Vortrag des Chefs der Kanzlei des Führers der NSDAP. habe ich auf dem Gnadenwege entschieden, daß Ihre sowie Ihrer Geschwister Nachkommen trotz nicht einwandfrei geklärter Abstammung als arisch im Sinne der Vorschriften der NSDAP. sowie der reichsgesetzlichen Bestimmungen zu gelten haben.

gez.

( Herrn  
Dr. August Ganghofer  
Berlin - Charlottenburg 9  
Stallupöner Allee 45 )

*ohne Adresse*

Aryan declaration for half-Jew Dr. August Ganghofer and his siblings' children. "After the presentation made by the head of the Kanzlei des Führers der NSDAP [Bouhler], I have generously decided that you and the children of your siblings are classified as Aryan for purposes of NSDAP regulations and federal laws, although your ancestry is not completely clear. Signed: Adolf Hitler." Ganghofer had several nephews who served in the Wehrmacht.

3a 5007/41 P. 2.2

Der Führer und Oberste Befehlshaber  
der Wehrmacht  
Der Führer und Reichskanzler

Ich genehmige, daß der

Oberleutnant a.D. Ernst Prager,

Berlin-SO 36, Am Treptower Park 18,

wieder als aktiver Offizier im Heeresdienst verwendet  
werden kann.

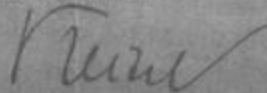
Gleichzeitig verfüge ich, daß der Oberleutnant Prager  
deutschblütigen Personen im Sinne der Deutschen Rassenge-  
setzgebung mit allen sich daraus ergebenden Rechten und  
Pflichten gleichgestellt wird.

Führerhauptquartier, den 30. Oktober 1941

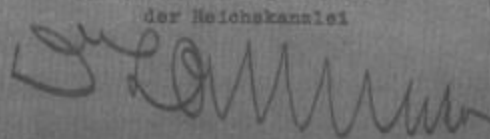
Der Führer und Oberste Befehlshaber  
der Wehrmacht



Der Chef des Oberkommandos  
der Wehrmacht



Der Reichsminister und Chef  
der Reichskanzlei



Vorstehende Beschriftung wird hiermit beglaubigt.  
Kulmbach, den 26. Juni 1951

STADTRA-  
Im Auftrage



(Hase)

Stadtschreiber

Half-Jew Ernst Prager's *Deutschblütigkeitserklärung*. "I approve that retired First Lieutenant Ernst Prager (Berlin-So 36, Am Treptower Park 18) may be used again as an active officer in the service of the army. At the same time, I declare that First Lieutenant Prager is of equal status with German blooded persons with respect to German racial laws with all of the consequent rights and obligations. Führerhauptquartier, 30 October 1941. Signed: The Führer and Supreme Commander, Adolf Hitler; the Commander in Chief of the Wehrmacht, Keitel; the Secretary of State and Head of the Reichskanzlei, Lammers."

# 1

## Who Is a Jew?

The question "Who is a Jew?" has sparked heated debate throughout the ages. Even today in Israel, the intensity of the preoccupation with this question is, according to law professor Asher Maoz of Tel-Aviv University, "second only to Israel's preoccupation with problems of security and peace. This is unsurprising as many regard both subjects as matters of national survival."<sup>1</sup>

### *The Term "Jew"*

The word "Jew" derives from the name of the tribe of Judah, named after one of the twelve sons of Israel (Jacob). The Jews descend from Aramean nomads who crossed the Euphrates into the land of Canaan under Abraham's leadership around 1850 B.C.E.<sup>2</sup> They were called the *Ivrim* (Hebrews).<sup>3</sup> Many today call Abraham the "first Jew"<sup>4</sup> and the first monotheist.<sup>5</sup> Some focus on the collective experiences of Jews during their bondage as slaves in Egypt and their eventual exodus out of Egypt that led to their becoming a nation. Others emphasize that God's chosen people officially became a nation of Jews when Moses received God's laws (the Torah<sup>6</sup>) on Mount Sinai around 1200 B.C.E. soon after they left Egypt.<sup>7</sup> This is when the people of Israel entered into a covenant (*B'rit*) with God, and the Torah was the "sacred writ of that covenant."<sup>8</sup>

In biblical times, a child "inherited" his Jewishness from his father. According to one common interpretation, in the Book of Leviticus, a "half-caste Danite"<sup>9</sup> man who had a Jewish mother but an Egyptian father was rejected as not "belonging."<sup>10</sup> This example illustrates that at the time,



Jewishness depended on descent through the father, contrary to today's practice. For example, Joseph's children are considered Jews, though their mother Asenath was the daughter of an Egyptian priest of On,<sup>11</sup> and Moses' children, though their mother was a Cushite from present-day Ethiopia.<sup>12</sup> Before the giving of the Torah, Jewishness was a function of one's lineage, beliefs, and customs. For example, circumcision was an identifying factor for Abraham and his descendants. To join the Hebrews, one just had to adopt their culture; no formal procedure of conversion was required. In this sense, all of the Israelites prior to Sinai were Jewish. Only after Sinai was a formal procedure of conversion necessary.<sup>13</sup>

### *Present-day Definitions of a Jew*

Today, observant Jews look to the Tanach (Jewish bible)<sup>14</sup> and Talmud (the oral Torah)<sup>15</sup> to define Jewishness. According to rabbinical law (Halakah)<sup>16</sup> today, a Jew is a person born of a Jewish mother or one who properly converts to Judaism.<sup>17</sup> Orthodox rabbi and professor Jacob Schochet of Humber College commented, "The father's status is altogether irrelevant."<sup>18</sup> The father does, however, play an important role in deciding whether a male child is of the priestly cast or not (i.e., a Cohen or a Levi).<sup>19</sup>

Why do observant Jews follow the law of maternal descent? Most observant Jews simply say that is how God set it up. When asked why God did it this way, some suggest that this law probably was adopted because a child's mother could almost always be identified in biblical times. This humane law also may have served to protect children fathered by foreign soldiers in wartime by accepting them into Jewish society. Moreover, most Jews consider a child born of a Jewish mother Jewish regardless of the parents' future actions. For example, most Jews would consider a child Jewish even if the parents baptized the child at birth. The child's Jewishness is its birthright, which its parents cannot take away.<sup>20</sup>

According to Halakah, once a person is born Jewish or properly converts to Judaism, that status remains forever.<sup>21</sup> One might think that a Jew would no longer be Jewish if he professed another religion, but this is not the case.<sup>22</sup> Orthodox rabbi Dovid Gottlieb remarked, "Once a Jew, always a Jew."<sup>23</sup> For example, most consider that political philosopher Karl Marx, poet and writer Heinrich Heine, and composer and conductor Felix Mendelssohn-

Bartholdy were all Jews, although they all were baptized as Christians.<sup>24</sup> Shlomo Perel, a Jew who served in the Wehrmacht (under the assumed name of Josef Perjell), wrote, "It's hard to be a Jew, but it's even harder to try not to be one [if you were born one]."<sup>25</sup> The satirist Kurt Tucholsky, in Swedish exile in 1935, echoed Perel when he wrote, "I left Judaism in 1911," but then added, "I know that this is in fact impossible."<sup>26</sup>

For many Jews, however, religion plays little or no role in defining their Jewishness. They believe Jewishness means first and foremost an ethnic allegiance (i.e., belonging to the Jewish people). They also hold certain ideals very dear to their hearts, such as education, family values, and charity. Religious beliefs are secondary. Many in the world who consider themselves Jews in every respect would deny that they have any religion at all.<sup>27</sup>

Most Jews consider themselves part of a unique family. Every day, observant Jews say the Shema, the holiest Jewish prayer which comes from Deuteronomy 6:4. It reads, "Hear, O Israel! *Adonai* is our God. *Adonai*, the one and only."<sup>28</sup> This prayer is a declaration to a nation, the people of Israel. Nicholas De Lange writes, "To be a Jew is thus to acknowledge an attachment to an historic experience. To become a Jew is essentially to join a people."<sup>29</sup> Moses Hess, an early advocate of Zionism, said in 1862, "Jewry is above all a nationality; its history goes back several thousand years and marches hand-in-hand with the history of mankind."<sup>30</sup>

The Jews are not a "race";<sup>31</sup> there are no genetic features that all Jews, and only Jews, share. Furthermore, because non-Jews have always been able to convert to Judaism, common physical traits could hardly be expected. Because Jews have spread throughout the world, they have taken on different ethnicities, cultures, and traditions. Nevertheless, they all have some attachment to Israel, and those who have remained observant share a spiritual allegiance to the Torah. In modern times, tensions sometimes arise when groups from the Diaspora immigrate to Israel. Israeli officials who have to define whether the people entering Israel are Jews sometimes have trouble addressing this delicate issue. Recently the arrival of destitute Ethiopian Jews (*Falashas*)<sup>32</sup> in Israel sparked debate about who is a "kosher Jew."<sup>33</sup> The government airlifted these persecuted people to Israel and gave them Israeli citizenship, homes, food, and education, but that did not automatically confirm their status as Jews. After discussing Ethiopians' cultural and religious differences, Israel's supreme court concurred with the chief Rabbinate's

conducted for this study. Helmut Krüger complained that he is tired of some Jews trying to make him into a Jew. He struggled for twelve years to convince the Nazis he was not Jewish but rather a loyal German patriot. He survived the Nazi onslaught but never convinced them that he was fully "Aryan."<sup>49</sup> Even now, observant Jews asked about his case unwaveringly state that Krüger is Halakically Jewish because he had a Jewish mother. Krüger insists that he had nothing to do with his mother's Jewishness. He was born German and raised as a Christian. Krüger dislikes being called a Jew, not because he is anti-Semitic but because he does not feel Jewish. Halakah means nothing to him. He added, "Should I be called a Nazi because my uncle, Hermann Krüger, was an Ortsgruppenleiter<sup>50</sup> of the NSDAP?<sup>51</sup> The answer is no just as much as it's no that I'm a Jew."<sup>52</sup> Some rabbis claim that people like Krüger demonstrate Jewish self-hatred; they renounce their Jewishness because they are afraid to admit who they are. Krüger believes *that he is just Helmut Krüger, born a German not by choice but by chance* to a German-Jewish mother who, like many Jews, assimilated and shed her Jewishness to integrate fully into the dominant society. Krüger's opinion is common among *Mischlinge*. The vast majority do not know how to describe their own Jewish heritage and are confused when observant Jews tell them they are Jewish. Some feel Jewish in their own way, not because they have Jewish mothers but because the Nazis persecuted them for being partially Jewish. Their Jewish identity was born of persecution rather than religious or cultural heritage.

### *Eastern Jews versus German Jews*

Examining the tragic conflict between German Jews and Eastern Jews (*Ostjuden*) before Hitler came to power helps explain the *Mischlinge's* confusion over what it meant to be Jewish. Prior to the rise of Nazism, many German Jews had unfortunately discriminated against *Ostjuden*. Many felt that the poor, culturally backward, and "dirty" *Ostjuden* gave the typically well-educated and cultured German *Jeckes*<sup>53</sup> a bad name.<sup>54</sup> Although many German Jews had contempt for the *Ostjuden*, some did help the *Ostjuden* philanthropically. They felt compassion for these Jews who left the East because of Communism, pogroms, and economic strife. Unfortunately, such German Jews who did help *Ostjuden* were a minority. Many German



1920s, he directed much of his hatred toward Eastern Jews and Jewish Communists.<sup>85</sup> He believed the Jews killed Christ and were the vermin of the world. He also hated Communists and felt that Communism was a Jewish movement. He was present in Munich when Kurt Eisner, whom Hitler called "the international Jew,"<sup>86</sup> led his Socialist revolution from 1918 to 1919.<sup>87</sup> Hitler felt that "Judeo-Bolsheviks" like Eisner were responsible for and had profited from Germany's defeat in World War I.<sup>88</sup> After half-Jew Count Anton Arco-Valley assassinated Eisner in February 1919, the Red Terror only intensified in Munich as the Reds tried to gain more power, under the leadership of people such as the Russian Jew Eugen Leviné, whom Rosa Luxemburg had sent to Munich from Berlin.<sup>89</sup> As a witness to this chaos in Bavaria, Hitler described it as being a "rule by the Jews."<sup>90</sup> So, since Hitler felt that Communism was a Jewish movement and inherently dangerous, he directed his hatred toward the Jews.

Later, Hitler hated all Jews regardless of origin or political orientation. Hitler's government officially designated a Jew in 1935 as anyone who was more than "50 percent Jewish."<sup>91</sup> However, how did Hitler describe Jews or Judaism? Even Hitler acknowledged some positive traits about Jews:

In hardly any people in the world is the instinct of self-preservation developed more strongly than in the so called "chosen." . . . What people, finally, has gone through greater upheavals than this one—and nevertheless issued from the mightiest catastrophes of mankind unchanged? What an infinitely tough will to live and preserve the species speaks from these facts.<sup>92</sup>

The praise Hitler gives the Jews is astonishing. Hitler acknowledged the Jews' ability to persevere against heavy odds. Recognizing this fact, one can understand what monumental task Hitler knew he had undertaken to get rid of Jews. Hitler's quote implies that he wanted to create a transhistorical, unbeatable race by destroying the one that already existed. Hitler had once said, "There cannot be two chosen people. We are the people of God. Does that not explain it all?"<sup>93</sup> Hitler thought the "Aryan race" should replace the "Jewish race." He overestimated the power of the Jews. Hitler's statement here displayed a strange admiration he had for the Jews and what he thought they represented.

## Who Is a *Mischling*?

Many have spent the years since 1945 trying to forget about the days when they were labeled as *Mischlinge* by Hitler. However, being labeled *Mischlinge* and treated like second-class citizens by the Nazis made an indelible impression on them that has greatly influenced the way they view this history, their society, and themselves. Although most *Mischlinge* would prefer not to use this term to define themselves, they have to use it to describe their personal histories and the development of their identities. In many ways, this term gives meaning to their experience, pain, behavior, and personalities. The following anecdote is telling:

In 1937, five-year-old Erwin Fuchs, a half-Jew, boarded a streetcar with his older brother. Both boys had been informed that Jews were no longer allowed to sit in public transportation, so they remained standing. A woman sitting near the boys made a little room for Erwin on her seat and said, "Here's half a seat for you, little one." Doubtful, little Erwin looked up at his brother and asked, "Which side of me is Jewish, the right or left?"<sup>1</sup>

### *The Term Mischling*

The word *Mischling* means "half-caste, mongrel or hybrid."<sup>2</sup> Everyone originates from mixed backgrounds. Ironically, Hitler conceded that "we all suffer from the illness of mixed, spoiled blood."<sup>3</sup> The term *Mischling*, however, is primarily used to describe animals of mixed breeds. In keeping with the idea of a *Mischling* as a mixture of different "races," this term

apparently was first applied to people with one black and one white parent in Germany's African colonies. Some Germans at the time called these children the "Rehoboth bastards."<sup>4</sup> In the 1920s, when French colonial soldiers had affairs with women in German territories they occupied,<sup>5</sup> the children who resulted were called *Mischlinge*. Hitler believed that the Jews brought these French blacks to Germany to destroy the "White Race."<sup>6</sup> The offspring of these unions, the so-called Rhineland Bastards, would be sterilized during Hitler's rule. There were at least two hundred who the Nazis subjected to this horrible treatment.<sup>7</sup>

In 1933, General Helmut Wilberg defined a *Mischling* as the offspring of a black person and a Spaniard.<sup>8</sup> To Wilberg's great surprise, the 1935 Nuremberg Laws labeled Wilberg a *Mischling* because he had a Jewish mother. Wilberg felt horrified that this label now applied to him. Most Germans agreed that blacks and whites were different enough to declare their offspring *Mischlinge*, but not everyone saw the difference between German Christians and Jews, much less than that between German Christians of non-Jewish descent and those with one or two Jewish grandparents. The German author Carl Zuckmayer, a half-Jew, wrote, "The term *Mischling* is total nonsense when applied to people with the same culture, language and skin color. A raving lunatic must have thought of this."<sup>9</sup> The Nazi term *Mischling* conveyed a strong negative image and encouraged Aryans to shun those classified as such.

Two years after seizing power, the Nazis implemented laws to separate *Mischlinge* from Aryans. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws created two new "racial" categories: the half-Jew (Jewish *Mischling* first degree), and the quarter-Jew (Jewish *Mischling* second degree). A half-Jew had two Jewish grandparents; a quarter-Jew had one. Since Nazi racial policy declared anyone of the Jewish religion a full Jew regardless of ancestry, most *Mischlinge* were by definition Christians.<sup>10</sup> These laws implied that anyone with less than 25 percent Jewish "blood" would be considered German.<sup>11</sup> Those in the SS and the Party had to prove pure Aryan ancestry back to 1800 to remain in their positions.<sup>12</sup> SS officers had to take their ancestry back to 1750.<sup>13</sup> Officially though, only those with 25 percent or more of so-called Jewish blood would be handled as second-class citizens. Most affected by the Nuremberg Laws did not argue against these new stipulations. They did not foresee what they would mean for their lives, nor did they see any chance



of opposing them in this authoritarian state. As half-Jew Hans-Geert Falkenberg said, "These laws were nonsense and weren't discussed by anybody in Germany. Don't forget that!"<sup>14</sup>

*Mischlinge*, according to Hitler, were the products of "unholy unions." Hitler claimed that *Mischlinge* "are the sad products of the irresistibly spreading contamination of our sexual life; the vices of the parents are revealed in the sickness of the children. . . . Blood sin and desecration of the race are the original sin in this world and the end of humanity which surrenders to it."<sup>15</sup> Hitler also said that *Mischlinge* were "bastards . . . monstrosities halfway between man and ape."<sup>16</sup>

The 1935 Nuremberg Laws defined the categories of *Mischlinge* according to the religion of a person's grandparents. Left without a reliable "scientific" method for physically identifying *Mischlinge*, Nazi officials had to turn to church archives<sup>17</sup> or local court records for evidence of a person's "race." Birth certificates kept in churches and synagogues identified every baby born in Germany as either Christian or Jewish. To prove the purity of one's Aryan ancestry, one had to produce birth, baptismal, or marriage certificates (or a combination of these documents) for all of one's grandparents. Conversion to Christianity at any stage more recent than a great-grandparent did not remove the stain of Jewish blood. The Nazis detested assimilation. Hitler cynically described this process: "If worst came to worst, a splash of baptismal water could always save the business and the Jew at the same time."<sup>18</sup> Frick declared on 4 October 1936 that "the ability to camouflage ancestry by changing religions will completely disappear."<sup>19</sup> After the advent of Nazi rule in 1933, the process of assimilation came to a halt, but the results of that assimilation, namely *Mischlinge*, confounded many Nazis.

Nazis were confused about *Mischlinge*, since they were both Jewish and German. Adolf Eichmann, SS-Obersturmbannführer<sup>20</sup> and chief of the Jewish Evacuation Office of the Gestapo, acknowledged that the unclear racial position of *Mischlinge* temporarily protected them.<sup>21</sup> For the Nazis, *Mischlinge* were also half or three-quarters German, and thus 50 percent or 75 percent valuable. Probably frustrated by all the confusion surrounding Jews and *Mischlinge*, Hermann Göring,<sup>22</sup> head of the Luftwaffe and second in command after Hitler, was rumored to have said, "I'll decide who's a Jew! (*Wer Jude ist, bestimme ich*)."<sup>23</sup> Göring allowed several

to serve Hitler. As half-Jew Gefreiter Richard Riess said, "What I was doing was actually against my interest and my family. I had to serve. I had to serve my mortal enemy. I rationalized that I did so to help my father, but that was definitely not how it felt and ultimately my service didn't help. . . . I always asked myself why I am serving a criminal — evil Hitler."<sup>185</sup> This dilemma plagued many *Mischlinge*. Many describe feeling as if their soul or heart were torn in two.<sup>186</sup> On the one hand, they felt secure in the army, but on the other hand, they felt that they were betraying their Jewish family. Many felt guilty that while they lived securely in the Wehrmacht, their Jewish families suffered Nazi persecution. Some rationalized their actions by convincing themselves that they were serving to save their Jewish family. Many provided temporary protection for their family members through their service until the Wehrmacht discharged them throughout 1940 and 1941. Half-Jew Hans Meissinger said that "being a soldier in the army of the Third Reich naturally gave me a bad feeling. The conflicting emotions are hard to reconstruct today. Naturally, I had some confidence that doing what other Germans had to do gave some shielding to my mother [Rosa] from the ever-present threat around her. After I was dismissed from the army, that shield was gone."<sup>187</sup> Self-protection and protecting their families in any way they could was only human, but in doing so, ironically, many *Mischlinge* felt they were betraying the very people they wanted to protect. Moreover, they felt that they were not being true to their own convictions by serving Hitler, who many knew hated them because of their Jewish ancestors. It was a paradox, but their sense of pride made them seek every opportunity to be like everyone else. At the time, however, many did not dwell on the ironies involved in their service. Only with time and reflection did many of these paradoxes become clearer to them.

In retrospect, many say that being forced out of mainstream society, especially when the Wehrmacht discharged them, made them look at Hitler and his policies more critically. Helmut Krüger feels fortunate that he had a Jewish mother because it helped him see things more clearly. Had he not had a Jewish mother, he claims, he probably would have joined the Party or SS.<sup>188</sup> Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, a Luftwaffe first lieutenant during World War II, echoed Krüger when he admitted that without his Jewish grandfather, he could have become a Nazi.<sup>189</sup> Because of the persecution they and their families suffered, many grew to hate the

## Exemptions from the Racial Laws Granted by Hitler

### *Why Hitler Granted Exemptions*

Throughout Hitler's political career, he made several exemptions from his ideology. Whatever Hitler had written into decrees was always subject to alteration at his discretion. Hitler granted thousands of *Mischlinge* exemptions from the provisions of his racial laws.

Some have claimed that Hitler made exemptions for *Mischlinge* because of his own "Jewish" past.<sup>1</sup> Since this issue was raised frequently during discussions of this study, it is explored in some detail.<sup>2</sup> The facts seem to indicate that Hitler feared his paternal grandfather was Jewish.<sup>3</sup> As Dr. Fritz Redlich, psychiatrist and author of *Hitler: Diagnosis of a Destructive Prophet*, said, "Hitler was mixed up about his descent. He was definitely scared about the possibility that he had a Jewish grandfather."<sup>4</sup> However, no documents have survived to confirm or deny this allegation.

In general, Hitler was very secretive about his origins.<sup>5</sup> He tried to conceal many embarrassing stories about his relatives and forbade that anything about his family or youth be published.<sup>6</sup> Hitler invented his own history, changing his origins and ethnicity. He even had people murdered who knew too much about his past.<sup>7</sup> According to Hitler's nephew, Patrick, Hitler claimed that the public "mustn't be allowed to find out who I am. They mustn't know where I came from and who my family is."<sup>8</sup> Several plausible explanations for Hitler's discomfort exist: his family had a history of mental illness<sup>9</sup> and incest;<sup>10</sup> his mother and father were second cousins;<sup>11</sup> his niece and possible lover, Geli Raubal, had committed suicide allegedly because



would be eternally grateful to us that we had kept him and not expelled him and would obey blindly."<sup>58</sup> According to Speer, Hitler often used flaws of men in positions of authority to control them. In this case, Heydrich's possible flaw was "Jewish ancestors."<sup>59</sup> Heydrich often took those who claimed he was Jewish to court for slander. He did so as late as 1940<sup>60</sup> and sent another man to a concentration camp.<sup>61</sup> Admiral Canaris, head of the *Abwehr*, presumably had a large dossier on Heydrich's Jewish past and threatened to reveal what he had if the SS tried to infringe on *Abwehr* activities.<sup>62</sup> Heydrich was definitely haunted by stories of his Jewish past.

Hitler's actions with Röhm and Heydrich show that he had the ability to ignore "defects" in men who, he felt, could serve his political cause. In this respect, Hitler bent his ideological principles to meet political needs.

Hitler granted exemptions for military necessity. Two examples of those who received such exemptions were Field Marshal Erhard Milch and General Helmut Wilberg. The accomplishments of these two men show that Hitler needed them to organize and develop his cherished new service, the *Luftwaffe*.

Milch became one of the most powerful men in the *Luftwaffe* and the Third Reich. In 1933, when Hitler wanted to hire the half-Jew Milch to help build an air force, he told him, "Now look, I haven't known you for very long, but you're a man who knows his job, and we have few in the Party who know as much about the air as you. That's why the choice has fallen on you. You must take the job. It's not a question of the Party, as you seem to think — it's a question of Germany and Germany needs you."<sup>63</sup> Milch admitted later that this talk with Hitler convinced him to take the job.<sup>64</sup> Milch noted in his diary on 1 November 1933 that Göring had discussed his ancestry with Hitler, Rudolf Heß (deputy head of the Party), and Blomberg and that "everything was in order."<sup>65</sup> Milch "possessed tremendous drive, a thorough knowledge of the production capabilities of the German aircraft industry, a detailed understanding of its managers and designers, and perhaps most importantly, excellent connections within the political leadership" of the Third Reich.<sup>66</sup> According to James Corum, the greatest contribution Milch made "to the *Luftwaffe* was organizing the massive program of aerial rearmament" begun in 1933.<sup>67</sup> By 1936, under Milch's leadership, "the German air industry had become a first-class organization" and the rearmament program was producing modern aircraft

that were reaching Luftwaffe flying units.<sup>68</sup> Hitler had claimed in 1936 that "two names are . . . linked with the birth of our Luftwaffe," Göring and Milch.<sup>69</sup> In April 1940, when the Norwegian campaign was running into several difficulties, Milch's skills as an excellent organizer and administrator helped lay the "foundation for the success of airpower in Norway."<sup>70</sup> Hitler eventually was victorious in Norway, thanks to the solid leadership that generals like Milch displayed. If the Germans had not secured their northwest flank in Norway, Hitler would probably have been unwilling and even possibly unable to launch his invasion of France one month later. Hitler presented Milch with the Ritterkreuz for his efforts during the Norwegian campaign.<sup>71</sup> A few months later, with the successful conclusion of the war in France, Milch was one of three Luftwaffe generals Hitler promoted to field marshal.<sup>72</sup> Over two years later, when the battle for Stalingrad was going poorly, Hitler called on Milch in January 1943 to save the situation. Hitler put Milch in "charge of the entire airlift operation" to relieve the Sixth Army.<sup>73</sup> However, the situation was beyond saving and Milch was unable to achieve the goals Hitler had set for him.<sup>74</sup> Nonetheless, it is important to note that when the situation became critical, Hitler called on Milch. Milch was an ardent and enthusiastic Nazi who strongly believed in Hitler. By 22 February 1944, Milch ranked seventh among Hitler's subordinates.<sup>75</sup>

Wilberg was an intelligent general who also received Hitler's "Aryanization." Wilberg was a first-rate commander who developed the important groundwork for the Luftwaffe operational concept later known as Blitzkrieg.<sup>76</sup> During World War I, Wilberg was the first German air commander who organized and employed whole air groups in the ground attack role. He was one of the senior Luftstreitkräfte (air service in World War I) officers and commanded over seven hundred planes in the great Flanders campaign of 1917, one of the high points of German airpower during the Great War. The army regarded him as one of the pioneers of "ground-support tactics."<sup>77</sup> He was good friends with Milch and had given Milch a squadron to command in World War I.<sup>78</sup> General von Seeckt had hand-picked him to serve as the aviation commander of the secret Luftwaffe from 1920 until 1927. Wilberg became the Reichswehr's leading air theorist<sup>79</sup> and was quite successful getting around most of the Versailles treaty restrictions on training German pilots.<sup>80</sup> He was a serious airpower thinker during the interwar period and was respected by everyone in the aviation field. When

Mayer was not alone in the Olympics. The government also granted hockey star Rudi Ball, a Jew, permission to represent Germany<sup>136</sup> and Captain Wolfgang Fürstner, a half-Jew, permission to erect and organize the Olympic village.<sup>137</sup> The half-Jewish commissioner of the Games, Theodor Lewald, continued to perform his duties unofficially.<sup>138</sup> Tschammer, who had officially replaced Lewald, addressed a meeting of German sport officials and said, "You are probably astonished by the decision in Vienna, but we had to consider the foreign political situation." He declared that Jewish athletes would not be discriminated against.<sup>139</sup>

Hitler's ideas of racial purity caused political problems not only at the Olympics, but also in dealing with his allies. Hitler could argue that his Italian allies were heirs to the ancient Roman legions and a southern type of Aryan.<sup>140</sup> Justifying the alliance with the Japanese, who fit into the Nazi category of "Asiatic barbarians" and whom Hitler had degraded in *Mein Kampf*, called for a more creative rationalization.<sup>141</sup> Speer called Germany's alliance with Japan "from the racist point of view a dubious affair."<sup>142</sup> Strict Party members disapproved of the association with "barbarians," and the Japanese did not appreciate being called inferior "non-Aryans."<sup>143</sup> Particularly because of the strategic importance of the 1936 Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan, creating a unified front against Communism, Hitler needed to ease the racial tension both internally and externally.<sup>144</sup> Consequently, Hitler "officially" labeled the Japanese "honorary Aryans" because they possessed Germanic qualities,<sup>145</sup> although in private, he felt they posed a grave danger to the white race.<sup>146</sup> Nonetheless, Japanese residents of the Reich were not subject to the racial laws and were allowed to intermarry with Aryans.<sup>147</sup>

Likewise, Hajj Amin el-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem and leader of the Palestinian Arabs, left the Middle East for Germany in 1941 because of political upheavals and surprisingly the Nazis treated him as an ally.<sup>148</sup> He lived comfortably in an elegant Berlin villa "in the pay of both the Foreign Office and the SS."<sup>149</sup> And once again, the Nazis had to compromise their racial views by approving racial "inferiors" as allies.<sup>150</sup> The Arabs were declared "honorary Aryans" because "the term anti-Semitic did not apply to them" and because Nazism was strictly anti-Jewish and the Arabs were not Jewish.<sup>151</sup> Hitler was impressed with the blond-haired, blue-eyed mufti and was "mildly interested" in the leader.<sup>152</sup> After Hitler met



with him in November 1941, Hitler said, "Despite his sharp physiognomy resembling a mouse, he's a person who has among his ancestors more than one Aryan with probably the best Roman heritage."<sup>153</sup>

The central figure in Christianity, the Jew Jesus, presented Hitler with a dilemma: either make an exemption from his racial ideology or face millions of angry Christians if he condemned their savior. Hitler dubbed Jesus an Aryan, and Nazi Christianity revised images of Jesus to look more Nordic and described him no longer as the advocate of love but as the bearer of the sword focused on the rebirth of the *Volk*.<sup>154</sup> Hitler believed Jesus was the greatest early fighter in the war against the Jews and that he did not practice Judaism. Jesus was not, according to Hitler, the apostle of peace. Hitler believed Jesus preached against capitalism, and this was why the Jews, his archenemies, killed him. Hitler had boasted that what Christ had started, he would finish.<sup>155</sup> Hitler approved the Institute for the Research and Elimination of Jewish Influences on Christian Living in Eisenach,<sup>156</sup> headed by Dr. Walter Grundmann. This institute stated that Jesus was Aryan, and published a translation of the Bible that was "de-Jewified." This Bible was written by the poet Lulu von Strauß und Thorney. Hitler "Aryanized" Christianity to make it conform to his *Weltanschauung*. To do so, Hitler had to declare that "Jesus was not a Jew." Thus, Hitler Aryanized Jesus.<sup>157</sup>

Hitler may have allowed exemptions to maximize the number of soldiers available for war. Right before and during the Polish campaign, Hitler allowed many previously discharged *Mischlinge* to reenter the service as officers. He had also included them in the draft, though he generally did not permit half-Jews to serve after 1940. From Hitler's experience in World War I, he knew how many could die in one battle and may have believed that the war would bring him high casualties. However, after his tremendous success in Poland, Hitler may have changed this opinion after seeing Blitzkrieg in action. A few thousand half-Jewish soldiers would not make a difference in the war's outcome. Although most served in the western campaign, Hitler had decided to discharge half-Jews by March 1940. The need for sheer numbers was greatest during the Russian campaign. Germany invaded Russia with 3.6 million soldiers on 22 June 1941. By January 1942, 214,000 German soldiers had died. Casualties had reached over one million by March 1942. In only nine months, almost 30 percent of Germany's soldiers had been put out of action, and by March 1942, 250,000 had fallen.<sup>158</sup> Throughout

that until they were sent to the camps, they had no idea about the extreme persecution there and, even then, had no knowledge of the systematic extermination of Jews going on in the death camps. Ex-Funker Friedemann Lichtwitz was sent to Dachau, where he was prisoner number 144724, because he tried to escape from his OT forced labor camp. He contends that although he lived in Dachau and saw all its horror, he still did not know about the systematic extermination of Jews until after the war.<sup>64</sup> Ex-Oberschütze Rolf Schenk was sent to Buchenwald, where he was prisoner number 134658, because he was a half-Jew and a political enemy of the regime. Although he experienced one of Hitler's camps, he said he did not know about the true extent of the Holocaust until after the war.<sup>65</sup> One must realize that reports on the systematic extermination of Jews were *Geheime Reichssachen* (top secret operations), and indiscretions about it were severely punished, making it difficult to obtain concrete evidence about the industrialized mass murder. Moreover, the experiences of Lichtwitz and Schenk, although horrible, did not take place in extermination camps like Auschwitz or Treblinka.

Contrary to expectations, this study has documented that some people of Jewish descent participated directly in the Holocaust as perpetrators, primarily because of their rank and responsibilities. Like most high-ranking Nazi officials at the Nuremberg trials, Field Marshal Erhard Milch, a half-Jew, lied when he swore that he did not know about the Holocaust.<sup>66</sup> He had read reports from Dr. Sigmund Rascher, the notorious doctor at Dachau who conducted brutal experiments.<sup>67</sup> Milch wrote the head of Himmler's personal staff, SS General Karl Wolff, on 20 March 1942 about the "interesting" experiments at Dachau.<sup>68</sup> On 31 August 1942, Milch also wrote Himmler to express his interest in Rascher's tests.<sup>69</sup> Besides knowing about and approving of these horrific experiments, Milch also served as co-chairman with Speer on the Pursuit Plans Staff, which needed about a quarter-million slave workers. Milch knew of about one hundred thousand Hungarian Jews expected in Auschwitz who could be utilized for his project.<sup>70</sup> With respect to slave labor, Milch (probably in 1942) told General Carl-August von Gablenz that he wanted him "to get in touch with [General Hermann] Reinecke concerning the French POW's. I demand that if the people refuse to work they immediately be placed against the wall and shot."<sup>71</sup> As historian Georg Meyer asserted, Milch can be considered a "German Jewish war criminal."<sup>72</sup> Unfortunately, Milch was not alone.

Ministerialrat<sup>73</sup> in the Reichskanzlei Dr. Leo Killy, a quarter-Jew who had a half-Jewish wife and who received Hitler's clemency in 1936,<sup>74</sup> was a paradox. He should have been grateful that Hitler had saved his immediate family and should have refrained from harming others in the same situation. Instead, as Raul Hilberg writes, he "performed significant functions" in the destruction of the Jews.<sup>75</sup>

Even more detestable was the notorious doctor at Dachau, Dr. Hans Eppinger, a quarter-Jew, possibly a half-Jew, who performed horrible experiments on inmates. Like Milch, he not only knew about but also participated in evil medical studies.<sup>76</sup> Some people claim that he may have been 75 percent Jewish and was able to obtain false papers.<sup>77</sup> He killed himself awaiting his trial in 1946.<sup>78</sup>

Stella Goldschlag, a Jew, helped the Gestapo hunt down hidden Jews in Berlin to deport to the East.<sup>79</sup> She was a beautiful woman, with blue eyes and blond hair. The Gestapo told her that they intended to declare her Aryan.<sup>80</sup> Called the "blond poison," she was responsible for several, if not hundreds, of people's deaths.<sup>81</sup> She claims that her only crime was survival.<sup>82</sup> Stella was not alone. The Jew Günther Abrahamsohn, another "catcher (*Greifer*)," as they were called, also helped the Gestapo locate Jews in hiding. He claimed after the war that he did so to survive.<sup>83</sup> Stella and Abrahamsohn were two of around fifteen to twenty "catchers" working in Berlin.<sup>84</sup>

Some ran concentration camps. SS-Obersturmführer<sup>85</sup> Fritz Scherwitz (real name Eleke Sirewiz), a Jew and Nazi Party member, controlled the concentration camp at Lenta<sup>86</sup> outside of Riga and was responsible for sending Jews to their deaths.<sup>87</sup> Witnesses claimed that he personally took part in the killing of two hundred Jews in Riga on 31 October 1942 and raped several women.<sup>88</sup> After the war, he worked in a Munich organization that helped Jews recover their property until someone recognized him and reported him to the authorities. Scherwitz was brought to trial as a war criminal.

Yet the cases of Milch, Killy, Eppinger, Goldschlag, Abrahamsohn, and Scherwitz were rare. Few people of Jewish descent attained the rank, positions, and responsibility that these people did. Perhaps they behaved as they did to show the Nazis that they truly believed in Hitler's *Weltanschauung*. Possibly they felt that the more brutal they acted, the more Aryan they appeared. However, unlike the others, the Nazis did not know about





"Half-Jew" Horst Geitner was awarded both the Iron Cross Second Class and the Silver Wound Badge.



This photo of "half-Jew" Werner Goldberg, who was blond and blue-eyed, was used by a Nazi propaganda newspaper for its title page. Its caption: "The Ideal German Soldier."



"Half-Jew" Johannes Zukertort (last rank general) received Hitler's Deutschblütigkeitserklärung.



"Half-Jew" Commander Paul Ascher, Admiral Lütjens's first staff officer on the battleship Bismarck; Ascher received Hitler's Deutschblütigkeitserklärung. (Military awards: EKI, EKII, and War Service Cross Second Class.)



"Quarter-Jew" Admiral Bernhard Rogge wearing the Ritterkreuz; he received Hitler's Deutschblütigkeitserklärung. (Military awards: oak leaves to Ritterkreuz, Ritterkreuz, samurai sword from the Emperor of Japan, EKI, and EKII.)



"Half-Jew" Colonel Walter H. Hollaender, decorated with the Ritterkreuz and German-Cross in Gold; he received Hitler's Deutschblütigkeitserklärung. (Military awards: Ritterkreuz, German-Cross in Gold, EKI, EKII, and Close Combat Badge.)

Sources:

[http://www.bryanrigg.com/hitlers\\_jewish\\_soldiers.htm](http://www.bryanrigg.com/hitlers_jewish_soldiers.htm)

<http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu/rightpix.html>

*Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military* by Bryan Mark Rigg

# The Stern Gang: Jewish, Nazi, and Proud?



Avraham Stern was the founder of the Stern Gang, a Zionist Jewish terrorist organization. Avraham Stern offered to make an alliance with Nazi Germany during World War II. Avraham Stern was summarily executed by a British colonial police officer in Tel Aviv on February 12, 1942.



die Botschaft Ankara  
Der Marineattaché  
(Ständige Legation)  
A. Nr. 1629 geh.

Geheim

Intensität des 12.1.41

Deutsche Botschaft in der Türkei  
Empf.: 12. JAN. 1941  
An  
J-Nr. 477/15/41

Heh

Sehr geehrter Herr Botschafter!

In der Anlage übersende ich Ihnen:

- 1.) einen Brief, den der Chef der Suretê Général in Syrien Colombani an den General Dertz gerichtet hat. Roser teilt mit, dass auf Grund dieses Briefes anscheinend eine weitere Unterredung zwischen Colombani und Dertz stattgefunden hat. C. ist der Ansicht, dass seine Zurückberufung durch die Zusammenarbeit von F. Spitz (H.C.) und dem Minister Pappas begründet ist.
- 2.) eine Verfügung betr. Demobilisierung, die von den französischen Militärbehörden in Syrien bei dem Truppenteilen im Umlauf gesetzt worden ist.
- 3.) einen Vorschlag der Nationalen Militärorganisation in Palästina zur Lösung der jüdischen Frage in Europa.

Mit einer Empfehlung

bin ich mir bewusst

A. 10. I.

11720  
Aa

*[Large handwritten signature]*

Transcript (uncertain parts in double quotes):

Deutsche Botschaft Ankara	Geheim	Istanbul, den 11.1.41
Der Marineattaché		
("Dienst"stelle Istanbul)	-----	
" " Nr. 1629 geh.	Deutsche Botschaft in der Türkei	"Unterschrift unleserlich"
	Eing.: 1"4". JAN. 1941	
	Anl. _____	
	J.-Nr. "xxxx" 15/41	
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3.) einen Vorschlag der Nationalen Militärorganisation in Palästina zur Lösung der jüdischen Frage in Europa.

Mit einer Empfehlung  
bin ich Ihr ergebener

And a translation:

German Embassy Ankara	Confidential	Istanbul, the 11 January 41
Naval Attaché		
(Office Istanbul)	-----	
Nr. 1629 conf.	German Embassy in Turkey	"Signature unreadable"
	Arr.: 1"4". JAN. 1941	
	Attachments. _____	
	J.-Nr. "xxxx" 15/41	
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To the Right Honourable Ambassador!

as attachment I send you:

1.) a letter, which the chief of general security in Syria Colombani sent to General Dertz. Roser communicates, that because of this letter apparently a further meeting between Colombani and Dertz took place. C. holds the opinion, that his call-back has been caused by the co-operation of F. [Goirtz?] (H.C.) and the minister "xxxx".

2.) an order related to demobilisation, which has been sent by the French military in Syria to its units.

3.) a proposal of the National Military Organisation in Palestine regarding the solution of the Jewish question in Europe.

With regards  
I am your loyal and devoted



who did the contracting for the Egyptian project and that he brought in about 100 German advisers. The hirelings "were not—or in some cases *not quite*—war criminals," Copeland writes.

Copeland insists that the men he worked with were not "unrepentant Nazis." Their rejection of neo-Nazi ideology might actually be considered unfortunate in a certain sense, in Copeland's opinion, "because as mere survivalists rather than men of principle, even wrong principle," he writes, "they find no difficulty in adjusting to Leftish influences in Nasser's government."<sup>16</sup>

Copeland's frank comment is a revealing illustration of a much broader trend of thinking in U.S. government security circles during the 1950s. Because the Soviets were also recruiting selected former Nazis after the war, Copeland argues, "we simply could not bring ourselves to let valuable non-Anglo-American assets (who, as Nazis, were under perfect 'cover') go to waste." He continues: "It was to our advantage to have [Nazi intelligence specialists] absorbed, with a minimum of fuss and embarrassment, by various countries of the world where they could live inconspicuously and earn a living." This policy was the necessary "amorality of power politics," he argues. "Believe it or not"—Copeland approvingly quotes an unidentified U.S. Army intelligence colonel—"some of us are still able to put future American interests ahead of the delights of revenge."<sup>17</sup>

The story of U.S. intelligence relations with criminals such as Brunner is of necessity fragmentary, for both the CIA and Brunner himself have taken extensive measures to keep such affairs hidden. It is clear, however, that Brunner was not an exception to the rule who managed to ingratiate himself with the Americans through guile or through an oversight. There is, in fact, at least one other *known case of U.S. recruitment of another SS veteran of Adolf Eichmann's "Jewish Affairs" office*, the elite committee that served as the central administrative apparatus of the Nazis' campaign to exterminate the Jews.

That recruit's name is Baron Otto von Bolschwing. Supremely opportunist, von Bolschwing succeeded in traversing the whole evolution of U.S. policy toward Nazi criminals. He had profited during the war from the Nazi confiscation of Jewish property, then later from the defeat of Nazi Germany itself. Von Bolschwing enlisted as a CIC informer for the Americans in the spring of 1945, and before two years were out, CIA agents in Vienna, Austria, had



recognized his skills and recruited him for special work on some of the most sensitive missions the agency has ever undertaken. These included running secret agents behind the Iron Curtain and even spying on Gehlen himself on behalf of the Americans.

Von Bolschwing was deeply involved in intelligence work—and in the persecution of innocent people—for most of his adult life. He had joined the Nazi party at the age of twenty-three, in 1932, and had become an SD (party security service) informer almost immediately.<sup>18</sup> In the years leading up to 1939, von Bolschwing became a leading Nazi intelligence agent in the Middle East, where he worked under cover as an importer in Jerusalem. One of his first brushes with Nazi espionage work, according to captured SS records, was a role in creating a covert agreement between the Nazis and Fievel Polkes, a commander of the militant Zionist organization Haganah, whom von Bolschwing had met through business associates in the Mideast. Under the arrangement the Haganah was permitted to run recruiting and training camps for Jewish youth inside Germany. These young people, as well as certain other Jews driven out of Germany by the Nazis, were encouraged to emigrate to Palestine. Polkes and the Haganah, in return, agreed to provide the SS with intelligence about British affairs in Palestine. Captured German records claim that Polkes believed the increasingly brutal Nazi persecution of the Jews could be turned to Zionist advantage—at least temporarily—by compelling Jewish immigration to Palestine, and that the Haganah commander's sole source of income, moreover, was secret funds from the SS.<sup>19</sup>

It was in the course of these negotiations that the young Baron von Bolschwing gained the trust of Adolf Eichmann, who was at the time an obscure SS functionary specializing in intelligence on Freemasonry and Jewish affairs for the Nazi party. The acquaintance was more than a casual one, for von Bolschwing went on to play a central role in arranging conferences between Eichmann and Polkes in Vienna and Cairo, contacts that established Eichmann as the SS's "Jewish affairs expert" and laid the foundation for his later career as the architect of the extermination of European Jewry.

Perhaps it was inevitable that Eichmann—ever the plodding, careful clerk—would have learned about Jewry and Zionism from someone. But as fate would have it, it was Otto von Bolschwing who became Eichmann's teacher. "The first time I was occupied with Jewish matters," Eichmann testified under interrogation prior to

## Part 4: Hitler's British Soldiers (British Free Corps)



Members of the Nazi SS-sponsored British Free Corps, a group of British “volunteers” (prisoners of war) impressed into the service of Nazi Germany, stand at attention.

(Photo: <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?21577-British-Free-Corps>)



A photo of a British Free Corps uniform





Left: SS-Sturmmann Alfred Minchin, British Free Corps  
Right: A British Free Corps recruiting poster





British Free Corps  
Insignia



## The War Statements of SS-Sturmmann Alfred Minchin, former Member of the British Free Corps

*During my research into the British Free Corps, I had the good fortune to contact Alfred's granddaughter Katie Minchin. She has kindly made available Alfred Minchin's statements from 8/9th June 1945, formerly held at the Public Records Office ( PRO Ref: 96519). Each paragraph is numbered and I have reproduced the statements in full from paragraph 4 onwards. Paragraphs 1 to 3 have been deleted, due to the nature of contents, names of next of kin and contact addresses etc. The Minchin statements are reproduced with the knowledge and kind permission of Katie Minchin.*

War Office,

8th June, 1945.

4. I was taken prisoner of war on the 28th March, 1942 off Murmansk when I was serving as an Able Seaman on board S.S. "EMPIRE RANGER", after we had been bombed by German aircraft. After our ship was sinking, we took to the boats and were subsequently captured by a German destroyer.
5. We were taken to KIRKENESS in Norway where we stayed about month when we were transported to ROVAHIEME in Finland. After three or four days we travelled by train to Helsinki. From there we were taken by troopship to Stettin and then by train to Bremen.
6. I arrived in Bremen about the 5th May, 1942, and was detained in Milag Civilian Internment Camp. We were behind barbed wire away from the main camp for about a month when the whole of my ship's company were taken to Wilhelmshaven for interrogation by a German Naval Officer. We stayed there about a fortnight and then returned to the Milag.
7. As I was run down in health I was taken to the Camp Hospital and was under medical care for about five weeks. Then everything was normal until about the 9th July, 1943, when I was asked by a Donkeyman in the Camp named LEWIS, whose christian name is, I believe, Frederic, if I would care to go to a Holiday Camp, which he described as D.3. About six others were also asked by LEWIS if they wanted to go. Their names were MAYLIN, BRYANT but the other names I cannot remember at the moment.
8. On the 22nd July, 1943, six members of Milag, including LEWIS and myself were taken by train under escort to Berlin, Stalag IIID, 517 S at Genshagen, where we stayed together for two months, when BRYANT and two of the others left.
9. MAYLIN, LEWIS and myself worked on the staff at Genshagen until November, 1943, when LEWIS and I left for the British Free Corps.
10. Sonderführer LANGE at Genshagen and an Englishman named Thomas COOPER induced both LEWIS and I to join the Free Corps. COOPER was in civilian clothing and did most of the talking. He told me that there were quite a few men in the British Free Corps and we would have a marvellous time. COOPER showed us a number of large posters with printed matter and illustrations boosting up the Legion of St. George, the name under which the Free Corps was known at the time. Cooper did not tell me what the aims of the Legion were and they were never laid down at any time. I thought it was just a propaganda unit in order to bring Germany and England together. I decided to join to find out what Germany was really like.
11. On the 2nd or 3rd November, 1943, I left Genshagen with LEWIS and we were taken to the offices of Stalag IIID, where we were given civilian clothing, by a German soldier under orders from Major HEIMPEL, whom I understand supervised IIID and all the people, mostly English, working on the Berlin Radio. I met Major HEIMPEL who gave me a form to sign stating I would not attempt to escape in civilian clothing and I willingly signed this form.
12. From Stalag IIID, LEWIS and I were escorted to Schonholzer Strasse, Pankow, North Berlin, where we were introduced to other members of the British Free Corps. I remember meeting COURLANDER, BRITTEN, McCLARDY, WILSON, COOPER and MARTIN at the time. This address was a private dwelling house where we had plenty of liberty. We were to go out unescorted into Berlin, although I did not have a pass. I believe WILSON, McClardy and COURLANDER had passes as they could speak German. I used to go out to Cafes, Restaurants and Cinemas in Berlin. The cost of this entertainment was paid by the German interpreters who would give us money, such as 20 R.M.'s, when we required it.
13. Sometime in February, 1944, we left for Hildesheim, Haus Germania in order to receive our uniforms. Seven of us went altogether, namely COOPER, COURLANDER, McCLARDY, BRITTEN, WILSON, MARTIN and myself. A senior German Officer, whose name I do not know, gave us each an S.S. uniform, without any markings. This was a pale green colour, with a peaked cap having a scull and cross bones on it. At Hildesheim we lived much the same life as in Berlin until Hitler's birthday, April 20th, 1944, we were supplied with British Free Corps markings, consisting of a lapel with three leopards, a Union Jack on the right arm with an armband on the left sleeve, with British Free Corps in English lettering.
14. The next thing that happened was that we were moved to a training Camp in Dresden on October 5th, 1944, under the

supervision of an American-speaking German, under the name of Captain ROEPKE of the Viking S.S. Division. I found that this place was an S.S. training school. We were given lectures on machine guns, mines, blowing up bridges, pistols and general army equipment. But we were not given any propaganda talks and the fact that we were walking around the streets all over Germany, dressed up as Free Corps men was propaganda in itself.

15. During the time I wore British Free Corps uniform I used to give the Nazi salute, as I had no option. We were instructed to do so by Captain ROEPKE and also the British N.C.O.'s. My rank was the English equivalent of Lance-Corporal, that is Sturmmann, which I held all the time.

16. After the R.A.F. and American bombing of Dresden on February 13th, 1945, all British Free Corps members, including myself, were put under arrest by the Germans, for suspected espionage. After a few days they were escorted to Berlin to defend the capital, but as I was in the Dresden Barracks Hospital with scabies at the time, I did not go to Berlin until I was fit, which was on March 2nd, 1945.

17. I was escorted to the train at Dresden station and travelled by rail in British Free Corps uniform to Anhalter Bahnhof Station, Berlin, where I was met by German officials and taken to the British Free Corps Headquarters at Carmen Sylva Strasse, Berlin, North 113. There I was interviewed by a German officer who immediately sent me to S.S. Hospital Lichterfelde West where I received further treatment for scabies.

18. I escaped from this Hospital on April 21st, 1945, in borrowed civilian clothing. I managed to get through on foot to the American lines at Tangermünde on the 5th May, 1945. I told the American Sergeants that I had escaped from Berlin and I was fitted out with American clothing and fed very well. I told the Americans that I was an escaped prisoner-of-war, but I did not mention anything about the British Free Corps. I have not mentioned it at all until today.

19. I was flown back from Hildesheim to Brussels and thence to Oxford, England where I arrived on 19th May, 1945. Since then I have had hospital treatment for an abscess on my right leg.

20. During the time I was a member of the British Free Corps, that is from November, 1943, until April, 1945, I went on recruiting tours, four in all, three by myself and once with Kenneth BERRY, a merchant seaman. I went twice to Milag and once to an Air Force Camp in Hydekrug in East Prussia. With BERRY I went to Milag. Altogether I obtained four recruits for the British Free Corps. They were VOYSEY, ROWLANDS, PLEASANTS and LEICESTER, all merchant seamen from Milag. On one occasion I recruited VOYSEY and ROWLANDS together and on another PLEASANTS and LEICESTER. I cannot remember the exact dates, but it was about April, 1944.

21. I was asked to do recruiting by the "High-Ups" in the Free Corps, COURLANDER and McCLARDY. I was quite willing to do this as I thought it would give me an opportunity of looking round Germany to find out their military defences, although I had no opportunity of passing any information to England, nor did I know how I could do so.

22. Whilst I was a member of the Free Corps, I chose the name MILTON, and was always known as such. This was a German idea that all members should change their names.

23. During the whole of the time I was in the Free Corps, I received my Red Cross parcels regularly every fortnight and also my private mail from England.

24. I have read this statement and it is true.  
( Signed ) Alfred V. Minchin

Statement taken, read over and signature witnessed by me.  
( Signed ) P.A. Edwards.

9th June, 1945

25. I have been thinking over what I said yesterday afternoon and would like you to write that the reason why I joined the British Free Corps was because of my state of ill-health. For many years I have suffered from chest trouble and bad blood circulation. At the moment I am still suffering from skin trouble, although the scabies on my body has cleared up.

26. Also I would like to point out that I have been to sea since November, 1935 with the Merchant Navy and rose from deck-boy to Able-Seaman. I started off in the Port Line to Australia, then the Blue Star Line and after, the Union Castle Line.



27. I am a sailor and as such have no hate for anybody, including the Germans. I found out there was no truth in the English propaganda about the living conditions of the German people.

28. I have never been a member of any political party and have never been associated with the British Union of Fascists. I have no political views at all.

29. When I was in the British Free Corps I had my photograph taken with Kenneth BERRY, both of us in Free Corps uniform, at Milag by a German Naval Officer, who told me it would be published in Front Zeitung, a German soldiers' paper. But I have not seen it myself.

30. I now feel thoroughly ashamed of myself. I realise now that I was a rebel and am sorry for everything that has happened. When I wore the German uniform of the British Free Corps, I occasionally carried a revolver and four rounds of ammunition with me, but I have never used it or threatened anyone with it.

31. There is one thing I forgot to tell you and that is that I suggested that the Unit's name should be changed from the Legion of St. George to the British Free Corps. I suggested this about Christmas 1943, at Pankow, Berlin, at a conference when COURLANDER, McCLARDY, BRITTEN, MARTIN, WILSON, COOPER and a German interpreter were also present. I got the idea from the Danish Free Corps, which I had read about in the German newspapers. After a discussion, COOPER who was in charge of us all at the time, agreed to the change of name. We also talked about pay and the type of uniform we should wear. Pay came under the same rate as a German soldier which was one R.M. a day. After we got into uniform we were paid at that rate according to rank. I was paid 1 R.M. 20 a day every ten days from the German Paymaster at Hildesheim. I also remember that upon joining the Free Corps I was given 200 R.M.'s in a Post Office savings account by Captain ROEPKE. I drew on this account and spent the money on amusement, such as pictures and drinks. All the time I was in the Free Corps I continued to receive 1 R.M. 20 a day. The German Interpreter usually collected the money from the office for the whole bunch of us.

32. At no time did I do any broadcasting and have never been near any German Radio Station. Nor have I written any articles or pamphlets. That was all left to COURLANDER and McCLARDY.

33. Actually I am one of the "Big Six" of the British Free Corps. That means the six ringleaders, the other five being COURLANDER, McCLARDY, BRITTEN, WILSON and MARTIN. COOPER was the boss of the "Big Six". This name stuck and we were always known as such.

34. When we were in British Free Corps uniform, we had to give the Nazi salute to all German soldiers above and including the rank of Corporal and all German officers. In our barracks at Pankow and Hildesheim as well as Dresden we had photograph displayed on the wall of the Duke of Windsor whom we all admired as he also was a rebel. We all recognised him as the King of England. When we had parties, we always toasted the Duke of Windsor.

35. When I recruited the four men I have previously mentioned for the British Free Corps, there was no compulsion. I saw them separately and alone in an office at Milag and told them what a wonderful time they would have if they joined, with plenty of forms of pleasure and freedom. They had already seen the Free Corps pamphlets and they volunteered of their own free will. All I got out of it was a trip out across Germany.

36. When I first arrived in Germany in 1942, I could not speak the language, but have since picked up a fair knowledge of it.

37. That is all I think. I have been trying to give you a good reason why I joined the British Free Corps, but honestly the only reason I can think of was to have a grand time at the expense of the Germans. I realise now what I did was wrong, although I never did any fighting or even fired a gun.

38. My Free Corps uniform with all my papers was left behind in the German Hospital at Lichterfelde, West Berlin.

39. I brought 158 R.M.'s back to England with me. This was the balance of the 200 R.M.'s given me by the Germans when I joined the Free Corps, together with other money I had saved out of my Free Corps pay. I handed this money to the Superintendent of the Mercantile Marine of War Transport of Dock Street, Aldgate, London, E. on the 28th May, 1945, and I produce his receipt for the money. I asked the Superintendent to change this money for me and he said he would at 40 R.M.'s to the pound sterling, but have not yet received the English money.

40. This further statement has been read to me and is true.

( Signed ) Alfred V. Minchin

Further statement taken, read over and signature witnessed by me.

( Signed ) P.A. Edwards.

Source: <http://www.bills-bunker.privat.t-online.de/56856.html>



British Nazi collaborator John Amery (left) is photographed after his arrest by Italian partisans at Milan, Italy in April 1945. John Amery, the son of British Member of Parliament Leopold Amery, was convicted and executed for treason on December 19, 1945. John Amery lived in Berlin from 1942 to 1945 and was instrumental in the establishment of a pro-Nazi British army unit called "British Free Corps". John Amery's father Leopold Amery served as Secretary of State for India and Burma under the leadership of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill from May 13, 1940 to July 26, 1945.



British Nazi collaborator and radio propagandist William Joyce, also known as “Lord Haw-Haw”, lies in an ambulance under armed guard before being taken from British 2nd Army Headquarters to hospital. William Joyce had been shot in the thigh at the time of his arrest in 1945. William Joyce was convicted and executed for treason in January 1946.





British society hostess Unity Mitford (left) and her sister Lady Diana Mosley Mitford (right) appear with SS Stormtroopers at the Nuremberg Nazi Party rally in September 1937. Lady Diana Mosley Mitford would be imprisoned by the British government during World War II. Lady Diana Mosley Mitford's husband Oswald Mosley was a British Member of Parliament (House of Commons) who founded the British Union of Fascists.



Adolf Hitler (left) appears with British Nazi sympathizer Unity Mitford.



## Part 5: Hitler's Latin Soldiers (Spanish & Italian Fascists)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-L15327  
Foto: o. Ang. | Oktober 1940

Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler (second from left) appears alongside Spain's fascist dictator Francisco Franco in October 1940.  
(Photo: German Federal Archives)



Spain's fascist dictator Francisco Franco (center) meets with Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini (right).





Adolf Hitler watches Spain's dictator Francisco Franco salutes to a group of Nazi German soldiers in 1940.

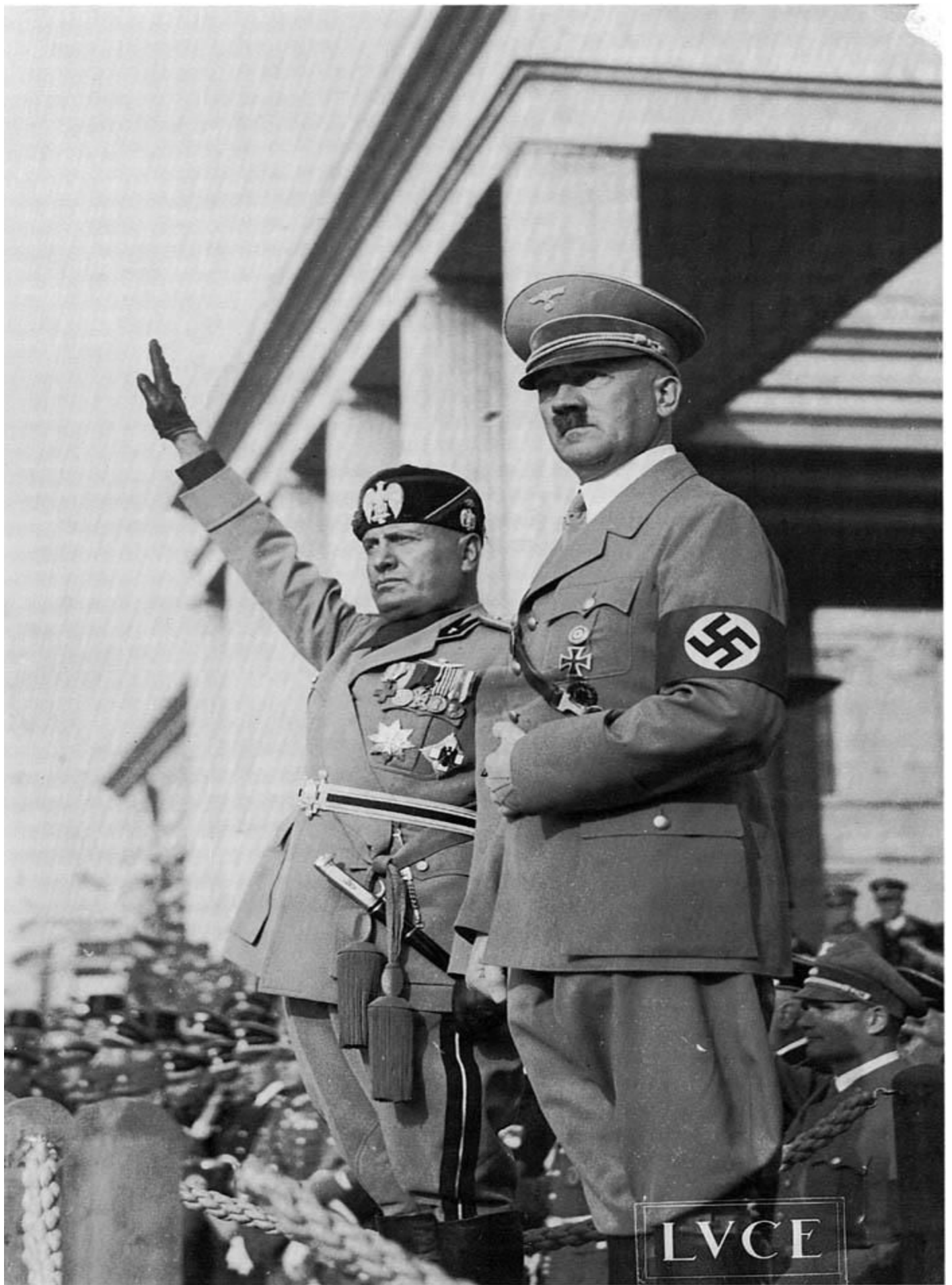


Nazi German dictator Adolf Hitler (right) shakes hands with Spanish dictator Generalissimo Francisco Franco (second from left) in Hendaye, France on October 23, 1940. (Photo: Time Life)



Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler (left) shakes hands with Fascist Spain's dictator Generalissimo Francisco Franco (right) during Hitler's only official meeting with Franco in Hendaye, France on October 23, 1940 as an unidentified German officer looks on.  
(Photo: Time Life)





Benito Mussolini appears with Adolf Hitler at a military parade.

## Part 6: Hitler's Slavic Soldiers



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1976-114-32  
Foto: o. Ang. / 1944

These men are Russian officers in the ROA, the Russian Liberation Army (In Russian: Russkaya Osvoboditelnaya Armiya). They were a part of captured Russian soldiers who joined the Germans and their allies in the struggle against Bolshevism. The officer second from the left is Russian General Andrei Vlasov. The ROA consisted of two divisions under the command of General Vlasov, and its popular name was Vlasov's army. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Генерального штабу генерал-поручник Павло Шандрук, голова Українського Національного Комітету та головкомандувач Української Національної Армії, квітень 1945 р.

Ukrainian General Pavlo Shandruk, who became the commander of the Ukrainian SS-division Galicia



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-N0301-503  
Foto: o.Äng. | 1944/1945 ca.

Russian General Andrei Vlasov, a former officer in the Soviet Red Army, speaks to a group of Russians serving in the Nazi German army in 1944. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H27774  
Foto: o.Äng. | 28. Februar 1945



Russian General Andrei Vlasov (left) and two unidentified Nazi German officers meet with Nazi German propagandist Joseph Goebbels in Berlin on February 28, 1945. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



Adolf Hitler meets with Ante Pavelic, leader of the Independent State of Croatia, upon his arrival at the Berghof in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, Nazi Germany for a state visit on June 9, 1941.

(Photo: Muzej Revolucije Narodnosti Jugoslavije/Yugoslavian National Revolutionary Museum)



Ante Pavelić (left) meets with German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop in June 1941. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



# Hitler 'had Jewish and African roots', DNA tests show

Adolf Hitler is likely to have had Jewish and African roots, DNA tests have shown.



Adolf Hitler may have had Jewish and African roots, DNA tests have shown

By [Heidi Blake](#) 6:25AM BST 24 Aug 2010

Saliva samples taken from 39 relatives of the Nazi leader show he may have had biological links to the “subhuman” races that he tried to exterminate during the Holocaust.

Jean-Paul Mulders, a Belgian journalist, and Marc Vermeeren, a historian, tracked down the Fuhrer’s relatives, including an Austrian farmer who was his cousin, earlier this year.

A chromosome called Haplogroup E1b1b1 which showed up in their samples is rare in Western Europe and is most commonly found in the Berbers of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, as well as among Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

"One can from this postulate that Hitler was related to people whom he despised," Mr. Mulders wrote in the Belgian magazine, *Knack*.

Haplogroup E1b1b1, which accounts for approximately 18 to 20 per cent of Ashkenazi and 8.6 per cent to 30 per cent of Sephardic Y-chromosomes, appears to be one of the major founding lineages of the Jewish population.

*Knack*, which published the findings, says the DNA was tested under stringent laboratory conditions.

"This is a surprising result," said Ronny Decorte, a genetic specialist at the Catholic University of Leuven.

"The affair is fascinating if one compares it with the conception of the world of the Nazis, in which race and blood was central.

“Hitler's concern over his descent was not unjustified. He was apparently not “pure” or ‘Aryan’.”

It is not the first time that historians have suggested Hitler had Jewish ancestry.

His father, Alois, is thought to have been the illegitimate offspring of a maid called Maria Schickelgruber and a 19-year-old Jewish man called Frankenberger.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/world-war-2/7961211/Hitler-had-Jewish-and-African-roots-DNA-tests-show.html>

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# DNA tests reveal Hitler's Jewish and African roots

The Fuhrer 'would not have been happy' to learn he was more Berber tribesman than Aryan superman.

By Haaretz Service

August 24, 2010

Adolf Hitler may have owed more to the 'subhuman' races he tried to exterminate than to his 'Aryan' compatriots, according to new finding published in Belgium this week.

In research for the Flemish-language magazine Knack, journalist Jean-Paul Mulders traced Hitler's living relatives in the Fuhrer's native Austria, as well as the United States.

"The results of this study are surprising," said Ronny Decorte, a geneticist interviewed by Knack. "Hitler would not have been happy."

Geneticists identify groups of chromosomes called haplogroups, 'genetic fingerprints' that define populations.

According to Mulders, Hitler's dominant haplogroup, E1b1b, is relatively rare in Western Europe - but strongest in some 25 percent of Greeks and Sicilians, who apparently acquired the genes from Africa: Between 50 percent and 80 percent of North Africans share Hitler's dominant group, which is especially prevalent among in the Berber tribes of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, and Somalis.

More surprising still, perhaps, is that Hitler's second most dominant haplogroup is the most common in Ashkenazi Jews.

"The findings are fascinating if you look at them in terms of the Nazi worldview, which ascribed such an extreme priority to notions of blood and race," Decorte said.

Knack said it would now petition Russian government archives to release a human jawbone wrapped in a blood-soaked cloth, retrieved from a Berlin bunker where Hitler is thought to have committed suicide and believed to have belonged to the Fuhrer, who dreamed of engineering a Nazi superman.

"For modern science, there are no more races, Decorte said, "This pure type of 'superman' and the [Nazi] breeding programs to perfect 'purity' were sheer fabrication."

Source: <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/dna-tests-reveal-hitler-s-jewish-and-african-roots-1.309938>

# Adolf Hitler & Asian Leaders: A Strategic Partnership?



Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler stand on a patio with H.H. Kung (left), Nationalist China's Minister of Finance (1933-1944) and Governor of the Central Bank of China (1933-1945), during Kung's visit to Berchtesgaden, Germany in 1937. H.H. Kung was married to Soong Ai-ling, the sister of Madame Chiang Kai-shek (Soong Mei-ling). Nazi German officers trained Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's army during the 1930s; Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's adopted son Chiang Wei-kuo served in the Wehrmacht and participated in the Anschluss. H.H. Kung earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Oberlin College in 1906 and a Master of Arts degree at Yale University in 1907. (Time Life photo)



Adolf Hitler shakes hands with King Prajadhipok of Siam [also known as King Rama VII of Thailand] at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Germany on July 14, 1934. (International News Photo credit) (Photo: <http://adolfhitlerbestpictures.blogspot.com/search/label/As%20a%20Diplomat>)





Left to right: Nazi German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, Imperial Japanese Ambassador to Nazi Germany Saburo Kurusu, and Nazi Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler negotiate the Tripartite Pact in 1940.  
(Image courtesy of American Memory at the Library of Congress)



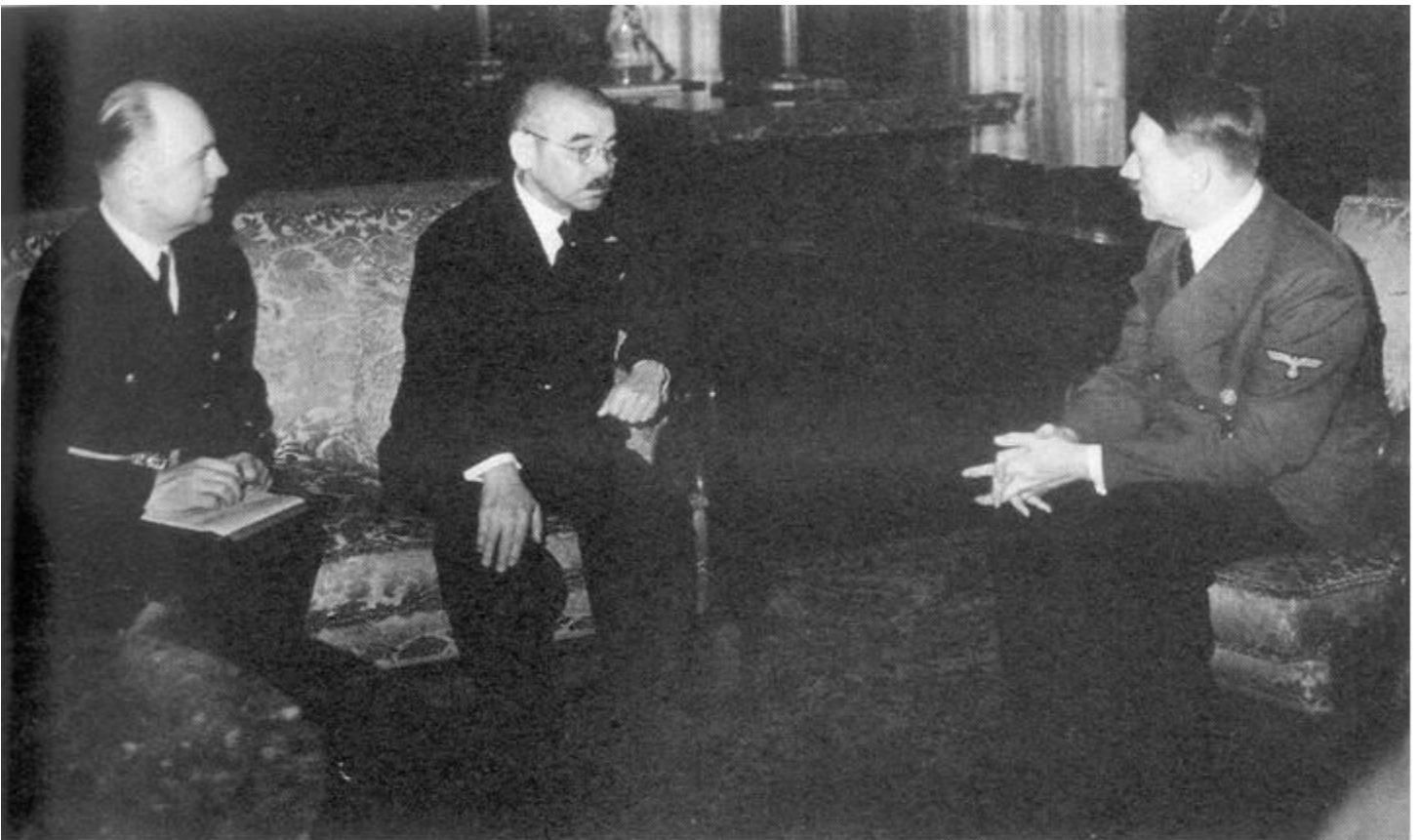
Japanese envoy Saburo Kurusu (left), Alfieri, Buti, Italy's Foreign Minister Galeazzo Ciano, Schmidt, Stahmer, Weiszäcker, Mackensen, Adolf Hitler, Meißner and Woermann appear at the Tripartite Pact conference in Berlin on September 27, 1940)

Photo: <http://adolfhitlerbestpictures.blogspot.com/search/label/As%20a%20Diplomat>





Left to right: Martin Bormann, Japan's Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, Schmidt, Adolf Hitler, Hermann Goering, and Meissner attend a meeting on March 28, 1941. Goering is seen wearing a monocle.  
(Photo: <http://adolfhitlerbestpictures.blogspot.com/search/label/As%20a%20Diplomat>)



Adolf Hitler talks to Imperial Japan's Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka at the Reich Chancellery in Berlin on March 27, 1941. The man on the left is interpreter Dr. Paul Schmidt.



Adolf Hitler (left) meets with General Hiroshi Oshima (right), the Japanese Ambassador to Germany (1938-1939, 1941-1945), at the New Reich Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on December 13, 1941. Standing behind is Otto Meissner, State Minister and Chief of the Presidential Chancellery of the Reich. (Photo: <http://forum.axishistory.com/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=109691&start=15>)



The Representatives of the Axis powers celebrate in Tokyo, Japan in 1943. ([Mainichi Photos](#))





Left to right: Saburo Kusuru, Japanese Ambassador to Germany, Adolf Hitler and Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano (from left to right) arrive for the recent signing of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo pact in Berlin, Germany on October 11, 1940. (Bettmann/CORBIS)



Left to right: Adolf Hitler, Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, and Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Oshima wave from Hitler's balcony in Berlin, Germany in 1941. (Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS)





Adolf Hitler meets with Japanese military officials. (Photo: Time Life)  
<http://adolfhitlerbestpictures.blogspot.com/search/label/As%20a%20Diplomat>



Against a background of their respective flags, Nazi German and Imperial Japanese officials toast the new Axis Pact in Tokyo in 1941. At extreme right is Heinrich Stahmer, mysterious German agent who forced through the signing of the pact. From right to left are Stahmer, Eugen

Ott, German Ambassador; Italian Ambassador Indelli, Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka, and Minister without Portfolio Naoki Hoshino. Next to Hoshino in uniform is War Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo, behind microphone is Toshio Shiratori. (Bettmann/CORBIS)



Three German generals and a Japanese general (right) examine a globe during a meeting in Germany on March 29, 1941. (Photo: © CORBIS)



Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Yosuke Matsuoka visits Berlin, Germany on April 19, 1941. Japan signed the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy on September 27, 1940. (Provided by Keiyosha) <http://www.jacar.go.jp/english/nichibei/negotiation/index5.html>





Captured Japanese image shows visiting group of German submarine crew of the Kriegsmarine [German Navy] coming to pay respects to war dead at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, Japan in October 1941. (Photo: [Time Life](#))



Captured Japanese image shows visiting German submarine officers and crew of the Kriegsmarine bringing wreath to pay respects to war dead at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, Japan in October 1941. (Photo: [Time Life](#))



Bundesarchiv, Bild 135-KA-10-072  
Foto: Krause, Ernst | 1938/1939

Unidentified Nazi German “tourists” meet with a group of Tibetans in Tibet in circa 1938-1939; three swastika pennants appear in the background. (Photo: German Federal Archives)



A group of Imperial Japanese Army officers and Nazi German Wehrmacht officers pose for a group portrait in front of the Nazi German and Imperial Japanese flags.





Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-2005-0524-508  
Foto: o. Ang. | Juli 1934

King Prajadhipok of Siam [also known as King Rama VII of Thailand] and Queen Ramphaiphanni of Siam appear with Konstantin von Neurath in Berlin, Germany in July 1934. King Prajadhipok of Siam abdicated his throne the following year. (Photo: [German Federal Archives](#))

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

I served in the U.S. Army from 2001 to 2004 as a soldier in the First Armored Division in Germany (1-1 CAV, Bidingen); I was deployed to Iraq (near Baghdad) from April 2003 to July 2004. I have traveled to many cities and places, including Tokyo, London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Milan, Venice, Luxembourg City, Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Denver, Dallas, New Haven (Connecticut), Yale University, Harvard University, Princeton University, Columbia University, Buckingham Palace, British Parliament, Reichstag, Grand Canyon, Swiss Alps, and the Rhine River valley. I lived in Crestview, Florida for several years and lived at Yokota Air Base (U.S. Air Force base in Japan near Tokyo) from 1987 to 1993. (My mother is from Japan, my grandfather was drafted twice by the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II, and my father is an American of Ukrainian descent.) E-mail: wpl314@yahoo.com

# Lee Beom-seok: Korean National Socialist Extraordinaire?



Lee Beom-seok [Yi Pom-sok] (1899-1972)

Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea [South Korea] (August 1, 1948-April 21, 1950),  
Defense Minister of the Republic of Korea [South Korea] (1948-1950),  
Korean Ambassador to the Republic of China [Taiwan], and Korean Nationalist

““The Idea,” Juche [主體], seems at first glance to be readily understandable. It is defined as self-reliance and independence in politics, economics, defense, and ideology. On closer inspection, however, the term’s meaning is less accessible...In fact it [Juche] seems to be used much like *kokutai* [国体] in interwar Japan, or *volkische* in [Nazi] Germany, or Mao Zedong Thought in China: a term defining an emotion that puts the nation first, or the leader’s wishes first, in everything. As we have said, Juche shares the same character as *kokutai* (*kukch’e* in Korean); *chu* means something like main or master, so that the liberal translation of Juche would be “main” or “master” principle. Corporatism seems to be a flexible framework within which Left and Right can meet, something many have noted about interwar Europe. Korea is no different. Juche resonates with *kokutai* and other such phrases precisely because of its diffuse and all-purpose meaning; an emotion masquerading as an idea, it appeals to nationalists of all persuasions. Thus it is that Kim Il Sung’s ideology calls up comparisons with perhaps the most extreme right-wing figure in postwar South Korea, Yi Pom Sok [Lee Beom Seok], the founder and leader of the early postwar Korean National Youth (KNY). In the 1930s, Yi had studied European corporatist and Fascist youth groups, and worked with the Kuomintang Blue Shirts and Special Services in China. On his return to Korea in 1946 he organized some 70,000 youths into a classic rightist vehicle of the streets; by 1948 the KNY had over a million members and made Yi second only to Syngman Rhee in power. His pet slogan, “*minjok chisang, kukka chisang*” (nation first, state first), expressed his [Nazi] German learning; he was among the first Korean political figures explicitly to exalt not just the nation, but the state. He opposed Korean reliance on foreigners (*sadae chuui* or “flunkeyism,” as the North Koreans translate it), advocated independence, lambasted those politicians who were “un-Korean,” and urged Koreans to adopt a standpoint of *juche*, which in his usage meant complete subjectivity where everything Korean was concerned. He preferred economic autarky to any external international involvements that might subordinate Korean interests. He urged a pan-national Korean solidarity based on racial purity: “the Nation is the race and the race is the nation.” Talk of “racial essence” and “blood-lines” (*hyolt’ong*) runs throughout his work: this for him was the key characteristic defining Korea, and the essential element in its corporate and organic unity. As for the mind and spirit, he thought only the strongest national consciousness (*minjok uisik*) could save Korea from predatory great powers. He lived in the era of “the masses,” he said, and therefore leaders must “understand and love” the masses, always be among them and never separate from them. One race, one blood, one nation, one state, and inseparable unity between leaders and led would create “a great family” that would endure. The resonance with Kim Il Sung’s idea is clear. Yi was, however, a romantic and conservative corporatist. He exalted the state, thought leaders should be patriots above politics, railed against the concept of class struggle, and in his bias against capitalism and material pursuits sought not to overcome it in socialism but to return to an earlier era of community.”

– *State and Society in Contemporary Korea* by Hagen Koo, Chapter 6 (The Corporate State in North Korea by Bruce Cumings), p. 223-224



“The officially-supported Korean National Youth melded Chinese influences with Japanese methods of dealing with political recalcitrants. **Yi Pom-sok was a fierce Korean nationalist, except where the Chinese Nationalists were concerned. Born in 1899 in Kyonggi Province, he went to China during World War I. He fought the Japanese as a guerrilla along the Sino-Korean border in the early 1920s. In 1933 he visited Germany to study military affairs; later he worked with German and Italian advisors to the Nationalists. By 1937, he was in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the KMT 51st Army, and by 1938, was a company commander at the KMT Military Academy in Hangzhou. He was widely known in Korea as a follower and admirer of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. 'Chiang and his secret police chief, the unsavory Tai Li, organized a youth wing called the "Blue Shirts" in the 1930s, a fascist-style paramilitary force that chose the color blue, it would appear, because brown, black, and green were already spoken for. Yi worked with this group, and wrote in 1947 that the Germans and the Italians were "pioneers" in youth movements, and also cited the Kuomintang's good experience with youths. He originally termed his own youth group "the Blue Shirts," and the KNY, as an American delicately noted, had "distinctive blue uniforms." American sources in Shanghai reported that Yi had been "working for Tai Li" during the war, and thought he had been involved with a group of young men who "persecuted all Korean residents of Shanghai and other Eastern cities without discrimination." Tai Li had been a confidant of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) chief in China, Adm. Milton "Mary" Miles. In August 1945 ten OSS agents in Shanghai flew Yi into Seoul briefly, then took him back to Shanghai for reasons that have never been clear. Whatever the OSS may have thought of Yi, by 1950 the CIA termed him "a man of little imagination and mediocre intelligence," possessing a forceful personality, "great political ambitions, and an intensely nationalist viewpoint." He thought and acted "like a traditional Chinese war lord," and remained deeply under the influence of Chiang Kai-shek. The CIA thought his future was limited, in part because he could not speak English. It was probably Yi's nationalism that the Americans disliked the most, however, for it meant he could not be trusted. Yi became known for his use of the Chinese slogan, "minjok chisang, kukka chisang," meaning nation first, state first. He got the slogan in China, which probably got it from Germany. In his mind nation and race were synonymous, just as they were in Hitler's; the difference was that in Korea the distinction between race and nation was minimal, *minjok* (ethnic people) often connoting both. His 1947 book is interesting for its anachronisms, its "untimely" quality; coming two years after the Holocaust it is a bit much to hear someone prattling on yet again about race, nation, and blood lines. At one point he lauds the Jews for preserving their identity for centuries, at another he remarks that "the exclusion of the Jews was quite efficacious for [German] unity." In classic corporatist fashion, he called upon Koreans to forget class conflicts, distinctions between superior and inferior, and to unite as one family. But the book is really a text on what it means to be a Korean, with "being Korean" the essence of citizenship and nationhood. He even uses the term *Juche*, (*chuch'e*), by which he meant something like being ever subjective where things Korean are concerned, always putting Korea first. This is the cornerstone of Korean nationalism, just what one would expect from an ancient, homogeneous people long subject to outside threat. For the American who has rarely had to think about how to preserve a nation surrounded by predators, such views are bloody-minded, solipsistic, utterly recalcitrant, obnoxious, doing violence to reason at every turn. But these are popular ideas in Korea, and also a realm where Left meets Right. If this is a type of fascism, perhaps no national elite would be more receptive to such appeals than right-wing Koreans; if not that, still far more receptive than to liberal ideas. Fascist doctrine in politics lauds unity, and most Koreans thought disunity had brought on the disaster of colonialism; in economics it posits autarchy, a traditional fact and ideal in Korea; it likes a strong leader, and no people seems to praise and respect a leader more than Koreans (even if much of the flattery may be false); it conflates ethnicity and nation, which coincide almost exactly in Korea but hardly anywhere else. It was common in Seoul in the 1960s to see *Mein Kampf* in Korean translation displayed in one bookstall after another, and secondary school students would often name Hitler the man they respected most amongst twentieth-century leaders."**

– *The Origins of the Korean War: Volume II: The Roaring of the Cataract 1947-1950* by Bruce Cumings (1990), p. 195-196



The first U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, John J. Muccio, signs over the government to the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Seoul, Korea on September 12, 1948. To Muccio's right is Minister of Foreign Affairs **Chang Taek-sang**; to his left, Prime Minister **Lee Beom-seok**. (Note: The pronunciation of Lee Beom-seok's first name is "bum suck".)  
(Photo: *Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History* by William Stueck)

"Aware of the fact that he had only a weak and disunited group of supporters within the National Assembly, [President Syngman] Rhee recalled Yi Pom-sok, former prime minister and defense minister, who was serving as his ambassador to the Nationalist Chinese Government in Taiwan, and entrusted him with the task of organizing the new party. In order to understand the nature of the newly organized party, it is necessary to examine closely the personal background of Yi Pom-sok, its chief organizer. Before 1945, Yi Pom-sok was famous for his anti-Japanese military activities in Manchuria. In 1920, at the age of twenty-one, he was said to have led a 1,500-man force of the Northern Route Independence Army to a decisive victory over a regular Japanese brigade of some 10,000 men. Upon formation of the Liberation Army of the Korean Provisional Government in 1940, Yi was appointed its chief of staff. In this position he had a close relationship with the military and political leaders of the Nationalist Chinese government, including Chiang Kai-shek. Yi returned to Korea on June 22, 1946, and within a few months he set about organizing the National Youth Corps (*Minjok Ch'ongnyondan*) on the basis of a "nation-first" and "state-first" slogan. For reasons not clearly understood even today, his National Youth Corps was generously supported by the American authorities with money and material. Furthermore, the police could not obstruct its activities because of the American support it received. **The National Youth Corps, often compared to Hitler's Jugend Brigade**, attracted mostly "marginal men" such as former Communists who needed protection in a legitimate organization, rightist youths who resented struggle among the rightist organizations themselves, romanticists who were attracted to the Corps' ideological appeals, and others who were tired of the chaotic situation in Korean society. Some 20,000 young men initially responded to its call for membership in October 1946. The National Youth Corps was attacked by both leftist and rightist groups, but it expanded rapidly in organization and membership throughout the nation. At one point, Yi Pom-sok claimed that half of all Korean youths had been affected by Corps training. Though this was an exaggerated claim, it indicates the extent of activities of the National Youth Corps. Upon establishment of the Korean government, Yi was appointed prime minister and, simultaneously, minister of defense. He kept the prime ministership until April 1950, two months before the outbreak of the Korean War."

– *The Failure of Democracy in South Korea, Volume 35* by Sŭng-jŭ Han, p. 17-18



Adolf Hitler greets Dr. H.H. Kung (left), Finance Minister of the Republic of China (Nationalist China), at Hitler's Bavarian Alpine guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937. Dr. H.H. Kung was Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's brother-in-law. H.H. Kung earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Oberlin College in 1906 and a Master of Arts degree at Yale University in 1907. (Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg04.html>)





Adolf Hitler greets Dr. H.H. Kung (left), Finance Minister of the Republic of China (Nationalist China), at Hitler's Bavarian Alpine guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

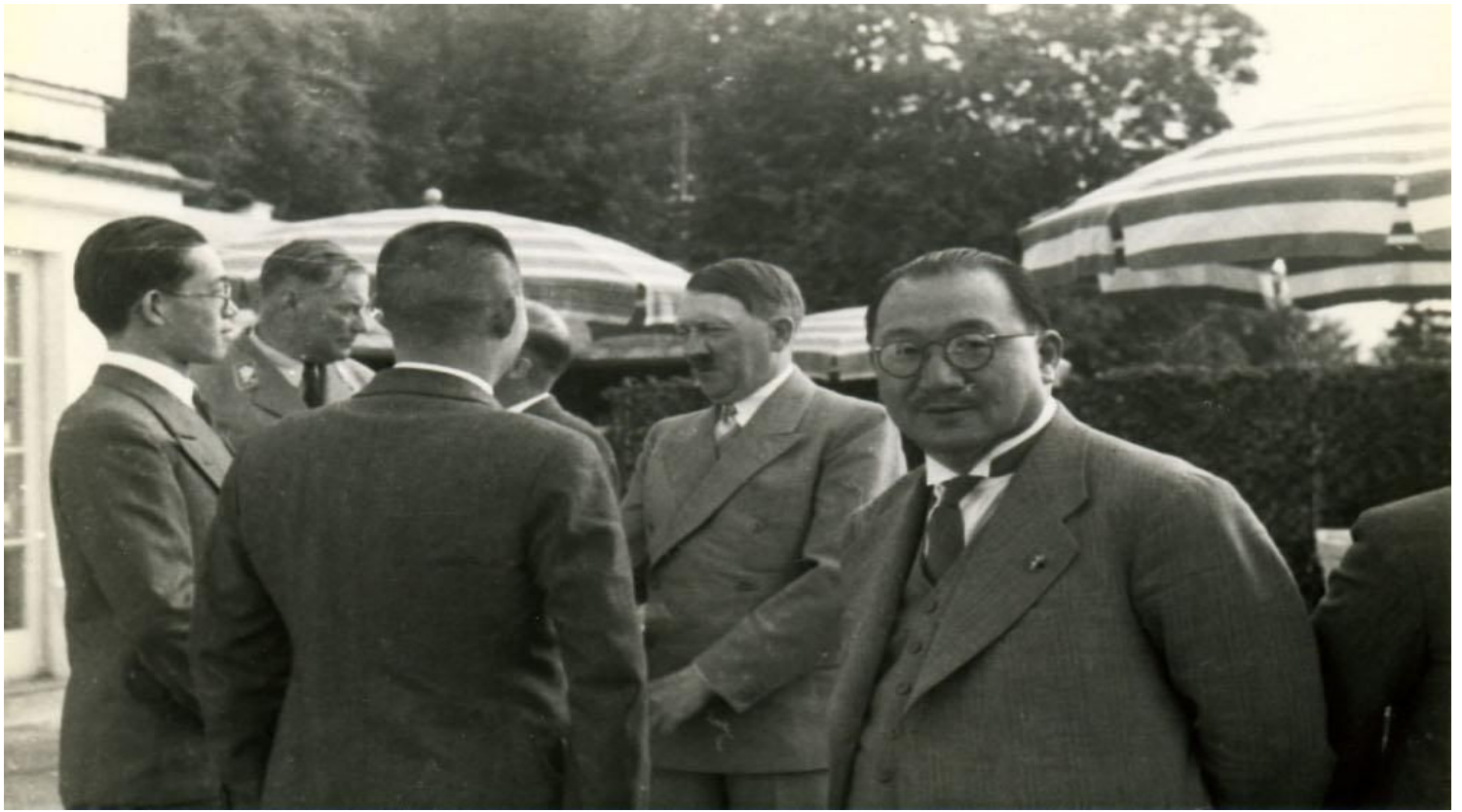
(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg05.html>)



Adolf Hitler greets Dr. H.H. Kung (left) at Hitler's Bavarian Alpine guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg08.html>)





Adolf Hitler (center) meets with Dr. H.H. Kung (right) and other members of the Nationalist Chinese delegation at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg12.html>)



Adolf Hitler (right) meets with Dr. H.H. Kung (left) and other members of the Nationalist Chinese delegation at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg13.html>)





Adolf Hitler meets with members of the Nationalist Chinese delegation at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937. (Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg18.html>)



Adolf Hitler meets with members of the Nationalist Chinese delegation at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937. (Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg19.html>)



Adolf Hitler (right) meets with Dr. H.H. Kung (left) and other members of the Nationalist Chinese delegation at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg24.html>)



Adolf Hitler (right) meets with Dr. H.H. Kung (left) and other members of the Nationalist Chinese delegation at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg25.html>)





Adolf Hitler (right) bows alongside a group of Nationalist Chinese guests at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937. (Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg29.html>)



Adolf Hitler (right) bows alongside a group of Nationalist Chinese guests at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937. (Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg27.html>)



An unidentified Nationalist Chinese guest (sixth from left, wearing a Mao suit) poses for a group portrait with a group of Nazi German SS officers and Hitler's bodyguards at Adolf Hitler's guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.  
(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg02.html>)





Adolf Hitler greets Dr. H.H. Kung, Finance Minister of the Republic of China (Nationalist China), at Hitler's Bavarian Alpine guesthouse in Berchtesgaden, Germany in June 1937.

(Photo: <http://www.xgbdesign.com/george-lacks/hitler/enlargements/enlg11.html>)



